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Champion
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Teenager's charity mission

Family launch drive to fund pioneering treatment

Baby Bailey James Taylor is pictured with nurses at Ormskirk Hospital

It's Baby Bailey the first!

BABY Bailey was the first child born after the introduction of an electronic patient record at Ormskirk Hospital.

Bailey James Taylor, who was born last week, was the first baby born in the hospital maternity unit.

The Medway system at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has moved maternity record-keeping from paper to a totally computerised system.

Bailey, from Sefton village near Maghull, was the first arrival after the switching on of Medway on Monday, January 11.

The centralised, integrated system will have inpatient and outpatient maternity care in the one place.

It will also provide richer data and analysis that will help staff keep improving the quality of care mums and babies receive.

FUEL PLANT PLAN DITCHED

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

CONTROVERSIAL plans to build a plant to convert waste plastic into diesel fuel at a site in West Lancashire have been withdrawn - after more than 100 campaigners protested at the site last week.

In September the Champion revealed that P–Fuel Limited had submitted an application to Lancashire County Council to create a new facility - the first of its kind in the UK - to chemically convert non–recyclable plastics at the West Quarry site in Appley Bridge, to the dismay of local residents.

And last Thursday (January 14) action group, Appley Bridge Community Against Greenbelt Erosion (ABCAGE) held a peaceful protest to coincide with a site visit by members of the county council's planning committee.

The proposed development, complete with 17.5 metre chimney stack, would have operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week to process up to six tonnes of plastics each year – the maximum amount allowed.

Residents in neighbouring Parbold and Dalton and environmentalists in Skelmersdale raised concerns as they feared that potentially harmful emissions could be blown in their direction by prevailing winds.

Residents show their opposition to the proposed fuel plant

Objectors were also angry that an environment and health report into the plant and submitted to the council was commissioned by P–Fuel themselves.

Katie Juckes, secretary ofABCAGE, told the Champion: "It was absolutely fantastic to hear the news that the developers have pulled the plans, it was overwhelming as we have real health and safety concerns. The application was for in a valley, a residential area with a primary school nearby – and it was for an untested and potentially very unsafe new practice. We will be on the lookout for revised or newapplications and we will be ready to fight them."

Planning permission was previously granted two years ago to use the site to generate electricity using bio–liquids.

Lancashire County Council confirmed that the applicants withdrew the application the day after the protest (Friday, January 15) and were considering their next step.

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Family fundraising drive to send MS sufferer James for pioneering treatment

MS sufferer James Coates

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

FAMILY and friends of a West Lancashire multiple sclerosis sufferer have launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise the money to enable him to undergo pioneering stem cell treatment across the Atlantic

James Coates from Tarleton has been accepted to have treatment in Mexico for his secondary progressive MS neurological condition for which there is currently no cure.

Although trials have begun in the UK only private patients are currently being accepted with an expected cost of a staggering £60,000.

The cost of 44-year-old James' treatment in Mexico is substantially less at £35,000 but the family need to organise fundraising events to help cover the expenses involved in the 5,000-mile trip and hemotopioetic stem cell transplant treatment (HSCT) at the Ruiz Clinic in Puebla City.

James' wife, Alison, told the Champion: "Although the UK is trialling a treatment for the condition, the criteria to receive it on the NHS is very strict as they are behind the rest of the world with the treatment. The only alternative is to go overseas where there is much more experience of treating it.

"James has been accepted to have treatment for his secondary progressive MS in Mexico at the world's leading facility for the treatment and we will get an admission date in the next few months.

"Now we are fundraising to raise the £35,000 cost of the treatment.

"Interestingly, HSCT is about to start being offered in UK privately but the cost will be around £60,000.

"MS is such a debilitating, insidious condition, and this treatment, which has an 85% success rate across all kinds of MS, offers a lot of hope.

"We are holding a fundraising ball at the Ramada in Southport on May 20 which we would love people to attend.

"And our local pub, the Cock and Bottle in Tarleton, is holding a fundraising event on Friday, February 12, the day after James' 45th birthday.

"We have also started a JustGiving page, which gives more detail about HSCT, and a YouTube broadcast as well in which James talks about the effect MS has had on his life in the five years since he was diagnosed."

Health trust's People's Choice awards launched

MEMBERS of the public are being asked to vote for health professionals in the county who have gone 'above and beyond.'

The Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust People's Choice Award is being run for the third year as part of their annual staff awards, nominated and voted for entirely by members of the public.

Voting is now open and will close on Monday, February 22, with the winner announced at a ceremony in March.

Nominations were shortlisted by trust chief executive, Heather Tierney-Moore, who said: "The awards provide a real opportunity for us to recognise and celebrate the dedication and hard work of our staff throughout different areas.

"It is wonderful to be able to present an award which has been chosen by members of the public and the people we serve."

To view the nominations visit www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/Peoples-Choice-2016.

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Yew Tree Farm homes plan given the go-ahead

Council grant conditional approval for development despite residents' fears

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

CONTROVERSIAL plans to build up to 580 homes at Yew Tree Farm in Burscough have been given the green light.

Buildings at the site on Liverpool Road South will be demolished to make way for the development after West Lancashire Borough Council's planning committee approved the application at its meeting on Thursday, January 14.

Proposals put forward for the site by Crompton Property Developments Limited include housing, care accommodation, a local centre with community uses and open space and recreation facilities including parkland, an allotment, play areas and cycle and pedestrian facilities along with infrastructure – including the construction of drainage works.

Residents have repeatedly campaigned against the development over fears that the local infrastructure, especially the drainage network and Burscough Waste Water Treatment Works off New Lane, will struggle to cope with the extra burden.

The decision to grant planning permission is subject to a Section 106 planing obligation – a legal agreement between the local authority and the developer.

Section 106 agreements are drafted when it is considered that a development will have significant impacts on the local area that cannot be moderated by conditions attached to a planning decision - for example, a development which could place extra pressure on the social, physical and economic infrastructure already existing in an area. No development will be allowed to take place until the applicant has obtained land drainage consent from Lancashire County Council.

West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper, said: "I know that many Burscough residents are deeply disappointed by the decision..

"I will continue to monitor the situation and work with residents as the development progresses. It is essential that on the outstanding planning matters the borough council's planning officers ensure the commitments on drainage, on transport and on community services are honoured so existing residents are not adversely affected as they have always feared they will be."

Gavin Rattray, from community campaign group, Burscough Action Group, said: "The application covers an area one-third of the size of the existing town and is probably its largest planning application ever.

"The great majority of Burscough residents strongly objected to the massive development and we were completely ignored during planning without any concessions on traffic, drainage, air quality, road layouts - and instead we get a new town we didn't want because it is in the best interests of 20 to 30 landowners and politicians. When it mattered, in the planning vote, the views of Burscough's residents were completely unrepresented."

Champion reader Ste McCloskey, from Liverpool Road South said: "Over the last five years, more than 50% of the local electorate signed a petition of objection, the parish poll resulted in a massive 'no' vote and signs, banners and green ribbons were displayed all over Burscough.

"Local residents still have grave fears that the infrastructure can't cope with such a massive development."

Death crash driver banned

A MAN has admitted causing death by dangerous driving following an accident in which a man from Skelmersdale was killed.

Andrew Birch, 46, died after the collision on Southport Road, Scarisbrick, on January 6 last year. He was a passenger in a Peugeot involved in a head-on collision with a Toyota which Kenneth Grisedale had just dangerously overtaken.

Liverpool Crown Court heard on Monday (January 18) that 57-year-old Grisedale, of Hartwood Road, Southport was driving a BMW 335D M Sport at the time of the crash.

Judge Alan Conrad, QC, further remanded Grisedale on bail to be sentenced on February 22 and also imposed an interim order on Grisedale banning him from the road.

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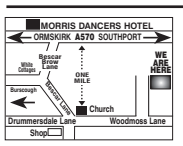

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Leaders of the Lancashire councils taking part in the consultation including West Lancs' Councillor Ian Moran (back row 2nd left)

Have your say on combined county authority proposal

RESIDENTS and businesses in West Lancs are being encouraged to take part in a county-wide consultation about the proposal for a Lancashire Combined Authority.

Local authorities across the county, including West Lancs Borough Council, have given the go-ahead to gauge public opinion and everyone is being urged to have their say.

Councillors have labelled the move a unique chance to bring Lancashire together and make sure it is a key part of the so-called Northern Powerhouse.

The chair of the council leaders group on combined authority matters, Councillor Alistair Bradley, said: "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the authorities in Lancashire to work together and bring more investment and jobs into the area and make sure we don't get left behind."

Supporters of combined authorities say their aim is to give councils a stronger voice to influence central government and win more powers, functions and funding to benefit the area and let locally elected people drive change.

They say they are not about local government re-organisation and would not result in the creation of a 'super council' or local authorities merging. Each council would still be responsible for the services it provides such as bin collections, highways and education.

Cllr. Bradley added: "Some people might think this is just another layer of bureaucracy but we've got to change the way we do things and I believe a combined authority would make savings and bring enormous benefits.

"People can get more information and take part in the survey on their local council website and hard copies of the information will be available in council offices and libraries. You can also join the debate online using the hashtag #LancsCA."

Leader of West Lancs Council, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "One of the aims is to create a place where businesses want to invest and create jobs. If we can work together with one voice and make sure people in our county have the right skills we will be a much more attractive proposition to investors.

"I would urge the people of West Lancashire to take part in the consultation process as their views will help decide whether or not we should proceed with this initiative. Your suggestions are welcome so please let us know what you think."

Every local council in Lancashire, except Wyre Council, has agreed to support the consultation, which started on Monday, January 11 and will run until Friday, February 19.

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Company link up with council at the double

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A LOCAL agricultural dealership have scored a double first with West Lancashire Borough Council.

Burscough-based Clarke and Pulman is the first company to be awarded a Let's Talk Apprentices grant by the council and to sign the authority's Let's Talk Employment & Skills Charter.

Both schemes are part of the council's commitment to support employment and skills initiatives in the borough.

The Let's Talk Apprentices grant scheme encourages local businesses to recruit West Lancs residents aged 16 to 24 into employment through an apprenticeship programme.

Alongside the government's AGE Incentive grant this means companies could potentially receive up to £2,500 towards recruiting an apprentice, subject to eligibility.

Let's Talk Apprentices grants are only available while funding lasts so businesses should apply quickly.

The Let's Talk Employment & Skills Charter is an agreement between the council and individual businesses to support local employment and skills initiatives.

WL Council leader Cllr. Ian Moran with apprentice technicians William Gillard and Ashley Oldfield

The council will provide businesses who sign up to the charter with information on funding and grant opportunities, business networking and much more.

There's no cost to businesses for signing up to the charter, but in return, the council asks companies to dedicate at least one day a year to support local employment and skills initiatives. Such activities may include attending school and careers events, providing apprenticeship and work experience opportunities and recruiting local residents.

Lyndsey Smith, commercial manager for Clarke and Pulman, said: "Young people are important to our business; we've always had a high percentage of previous apprentices remaining with the company long term. We'd like to thank the council for their support allowing us to employ more apprentices who are ambitious and enthusiastic.

"As an employer who invests in apprenticeships and recruiting local residents, we are proud to be a member of the Let's Talk Employment & Skills Charter."

West Lancs Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, added: "The council is committed to sustainable regeneration and growth by supporting our West Lancashire businesses, helping to create opportunities, improving skill levels and retaining quality jobs for local people."

"I would encourage other local businesses to follow Clarke and Pulman's example and sign up for the Let's Talk Employment & Skills Charter and apply for a Let's Talk Apprentices grant.

"Many employers are already supporting these types of activities and your business may be one of them, which is all the more reason to sign up and gain recognition for your efforts. Funding for the grants is limited so businesses should apply quickly."

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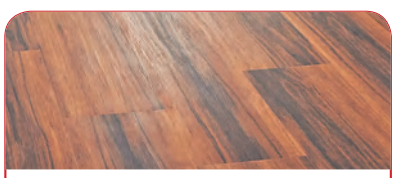

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Teenager launches bid to help veterans' mental health charity

Report by **Tom Martin**

Dan Frampton

A TEENAGER from Aughton whose ambition is to become a Royal Marines Officer is raising money for a charity which supports soldiers.

Dan Frampton aims to devote his life to the armed forces and has already passed his Admiralty Board interview in preparation for his future career.

Now the 16-year-old is preparing to take part in the Blackpool Half Marathon event and is hoping to raise funds for the charity Combat Stress.

And after spreading the word via social media and bucket collections, Dan has already smashed his original £500 target and now has his sights set on reaching £1,500.

Combat Stress supports soldiers who have returned home with mental illnesses, a cause which is close to Dan's heart as explains, his own family has a history of mental health problems.

He said: "My family has struggled with mental illness for generations with the majority of them being affected at some point in their life.

"Due to the connection with mental illness I admire this charity and I have decided to try and raise money in it's name.

"My initial goal was to raise £500, but thanks to the generosity of friends, family and the general public, I have already raised £555.

"I have contacted the charity itself and they have sent me a fundraising pack. After reading it I noticed that if I could raise £1,532 it would fund a week with a psychologist.

"It's a difficult target but one I'm sure I can achieve.

"I intend to boost my sponsorship total by campaigning on Facebook, speaking to local businesses, family members and friends, and going into Liverpool city centre with collection buckets.

"I have seen mental illness first hand. I have seen how it changes people and how much harder life is with it.

"With soldiers coming home and suffering with mental illnesses because of the things they have seen whilst on operations it is imperative that we give them the help they need

"That is very important for me."

To sponsor Dan visit www.justgiving.com/Dan-Frampton.

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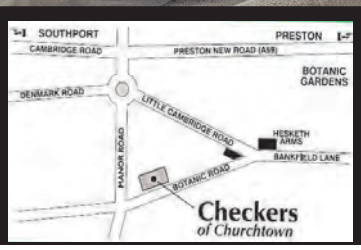

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Council survey seeks public's views of Ormskirk

Residents and businesses urged to take part in marketing exercise

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

ORMSKIRK residents are being urged to share their views on their perceptions of the town, the market, how they shop and their views of how the town appears to visitors.

The survey, by West Lancashire Borough Council, is also asking them to share how they feel the town compares to rival competitor towns.

The council has organised a market research exercise, with input from other Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group members and the information gathered will be used to shape the town's future.

The survey, which can be submitted anonymously and take around five minutes to complete, will close at midnight on Friday, January 29.

Other residents of West Lancashire and members of the public from outside the area will also have the opportunity to take part in the exercise through face-to-face street surveys in Ormskirk and neighbouring towns.

And there will be workshops and focus groups with invited guests.

The whole exercise is expected to be completed by late February.

Councillor Ian Moran, West Lancs Council leader and portfolio holder for economic regeneration, said: "To ensure we have a marketing strategy that will make a real difference to Ormskirk - and to you - we need insight from local residents and business bosses that are most familiar with the town as a place to live, work, spend leisure time and do business.

"I would urge all people living, working or running businesses in Ormskirk to take part in the survey to help us get as accurate a picture of the town as possible."

Councillor Ian Moran

Separate online surveys aimed specifically at Ormskirk residents and businesses are now available on the council website at www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews.

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College plays host to Skills Week initiative

MP Rosie Cooper at the Skills Week at West Lancashire College

WEST Lancashire College campuses welcomed guest lecturers and seminars and workshops by professionals in industry, along with employability sessions and new skills sessions as part of Skills Week.

Introduced during the first week back after the Christmas and New Year break, the aim of the week was to build the resilience and confidence of students while helping them to develop employability skills or offering the opportunity to learn a new skill.

College staff were delighted with the level of attendance and collaboration of local and regional employers and partners who helped bring Skills Week to life and give valuable insight into the skills needed in their industry.

Employers attending included: RBS Bank, St John Ambulance, West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper, NCS Challenge, Edge Hill University, the University of Bradford Outside Broadcasting, Scissorhands Hairdressing Academy, Wigan Athletic Community Trust, The Birchwood Centre, Graylaw Freight, Stocks Hall Nursing Home and Home Instead.

And feedback from guests and students alike indicated the initiative was a success.

Barbara Mooney, scheme manager at the Birchwood Centre, said: "Thanks to the college for inviting me to deliver the sessions during the Skills Week, I hope the students gave some positive feedback.

"I certainly appreciated their involvement and co-operation during the sessions, I hope they had a bit of fun but also took some things to think about! It was great to meet such attentive learners, who showed respect to a visitor – a credit to their tutors and the college!

"Please thank the learners and the tutors who joined in."

A spokesperson for West Lancashire College said: "We would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who came to talk about their jobs and industries to enrich the experiences and skills of our learners and prepare them for their future careers.

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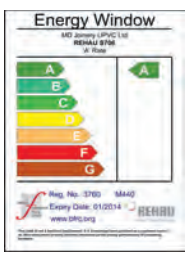

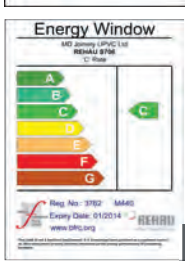

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Entries open for charity10k race

Edge Hill to host annual fun-run

GETTING into shape and improving your health is one of the most sought-after New Year's resolutions each year – and now a charity is urging West Lancashire residents to raise money for a national charity at the same time!

Entries are now open for the seventh annual Belle Vue House 10K fund-raising race, known as Jacob's Leg It 10K, which aims to raise awareness of autism.

The run will be held at 10.30am on Sunday 24 April and will start and finish at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk, following rural roads and tracks around the town.

Since the Jacob's Leg It 10K began, with the support of O2 in Ormskirk, it has raised nearly £20,000 for The National Autistic Society – and last year alone it raised more than £4,000. The charity supports individuals with autism and their families.

The race has been organised by Skelmersdale Boundary Harriers, with the support of the O2 Shop in Ormskirk and some 380 runners took part last year.

Every finisher will receive a medal and a memento, and there will be individual awards for first, second and third placed men and women, as well as team prizes for England Athletics affiliated clubs and selected veterans prizes.

Last year's event in Ormskirk

The event's name, formerly the Belle Vue House 10K, was changed in honour of the 02 Ormskirk director Nick Mussell's son, Jacob as children who have autism can feel awkward and may want to run away or 'leg it' so the run's name is a play on this.

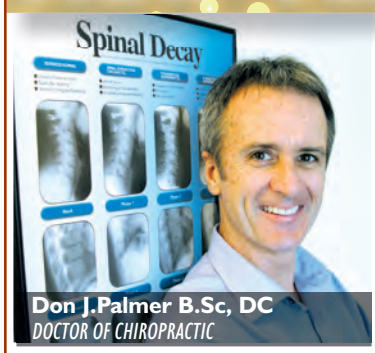
Nick Mussell said: "It's great to be a part of this fantastic charity event, having a son with autism I understand how valuable the work of The National Autistic Society is. People may not realise when they meet Jacob that he has autism and it is often described as a hidden disability.

"Autism is a lifelong condition which affects how a person communicates with and relates to others, as well as how they see the world. It is a spectrum condition which manifests differently in each individual. Children on the autism spectrum may act in unusual ways or seem different to their peers. This is often because they experience the world differently to others. It is not always easy for them to interact, express themselves or understand other people's language and emotions. Everyday situations may increase anxiety and ordinary sounds or human touch can be distressing. Many children on the autism spectrum dislike change in their routine and they may need support to help them to make sense of the world around them."

Entry online or by post cost £9 for affiliated club runners (£13 on the day) and £11 for non-club runners (£15 on the day).

• To find out more or to enter the race, visit jacobslegit.org.uk or search for Jacobs Leg It on Twitter.

NEW YEAR NEW YOU



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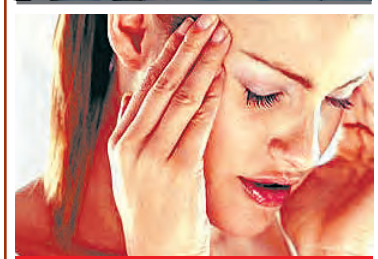

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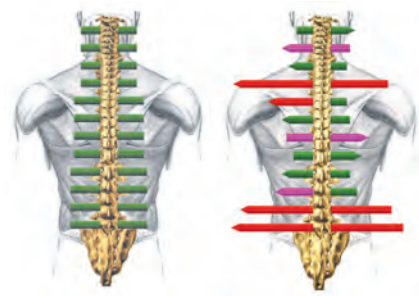

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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To do nothing about drainage risks economic catastrophe

THE assertion that many areas of West Lancashire wouldn't benefit from the creation of an internal drainage board (IDB) is a short-sighted view.

Damage to public infrastructure affects a greater proportion of the population than those whose homes or businesses are directly flooded.

Flood damage to roads, railways and transport hubs can have significant effects on regional economies. Railways are particularly vulnerable as water can wash away ballast, cause short circuits in electrified systems and cause points and signalling equipment to fail.

About 5,500 people per day travel from West Lancashire to work in Sefton with a similar number commuting inwards. Main routes include the Southport to Manchester railway, the A570 through Scarisbrick, and the A565 through Mere Brow. These routes cross the pumped catchment area where the Environment Agency has served notice on pumping operations.

Economic prosperity depends on what we make and sell, creating jobs and providing taxation opportunities which fuel public services. West Lancashire's farmland provides 94% of Lancashire's fruit and vegetables and 71% of the North West regional total.

Land now at risk within the Alt-Crossens catchment is critical in maintaining this important sector of the economy and the businesses that depend upon it. For example, the food processing industry converts farm produce into consumer-ready products. In 2012 this industry was the second largest contributor to Lancashire's £3.9 billion manufacturing sector, employing over 12,000 people.

Further, the West Lancashire Economy Study states that our visitor economy generates £112 million and is shaped by our rural landscape with 92% of the borough being composed of green belt.

To focus on the cost of an IDB is to ignore the cost of doing nothing. Consideration needs to be given to accessing central government funding enjoyed by existing IDBs. This can only be achieved by dialogue involving all stakeholders, including our local principal authorities. To do otherwise risks an environmental and economic catastrophe.

John Herbert, Scarisbrick Parish Councillor

We need to get our priorities right when it comes to public spending

I REFER to your front page story (January 6) regarding the Environment Agency's decision not to review the intended closure of five pumping stations in West Lancs despite the recent floods and the consequences to the areas concerned.

The EA states that the stations considered for withdrawal appear to offer negligible flood risk benefits to people and residential properties and they are not subject to any legal obligations regarding their operation.

The agency is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the UK government's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) with 'responsibilities relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in England' (really!)

Where does this leave the people of West Lancashire? In a nutshell, once the pumps are turned off we are faced with devastation to land and homes just like we have seen throughout the north in the last few months.

Prioritising our own interests is not a sin. Why do we spend large sums of money in places like Bangladesh, Eritrea, Pakistan and India, when it needs spending in England and here in West Lancashire?

Sometimes you have to wonder if our leaders have the first clue about how to behave. Great Britain spends more on foreign aid than any other nation in Europe.

Spending on flood defences in the UK is down by 14% but in the Serbian city of Lazarevac the British government has just funded and completed a flood defence project for 60,000 people.

Being a successful politician is not wading around in wellies after the event. It's being in touch in advance with the common will.

We live in an age of aspiration where people want to better themselves and safeguard their personal interests. Interests which cannot necessarily be described of being of the political left or right, just common sense stuff, bearing in mind that most work hard for a living.

More than ever before politics and politicians need to grow up to feasibly exist in the real world. The one where you and I live.

Barry Critchley, Halsall Parish Councillor

PICTURE of the week

No waterlogged pitches or soggy soccer for these footballers as they enjoy the all-weather 3G outdoor games facilities at Southport's Stanley High School. Picture by Martyn Snape.

There is an alternative to the 'studification' of town

RESIDENTS of Ormskirk need to wake up to the issues of the 'studification' of the town and the effect it will have on their lives. The attitude 'it won't happen to me' is so wrong!

Under planning regulations a percentage level per street has been set and these levels have now been reached in and around the town centre streets. Developers and landlords are now looking anywhere and everywhere, any house or building in the district that comes on the market is now a target for conversion to multiple occupation.

Ormskirk town centre has become a main target for this type of development. Shopping habits have changed and small town-centre shops are unable to compete and survive.

There is an alternative to turning Ormskirk into nothing more than a student ghetto and that's to convert empty shops and buildings into good-quality apartments for young first-time buyers.

Once the town has been handed over to developers for student accommodation it's gone for ever. The only business that can survive will be fast food and booze shops catering for student needs followed by a downward spiral of local amenities for what's left of the residents.

Be warned - it's happening now and will affect you and your children if this rot is not contained.

Peter Reeves, by email

Thank-you to my Good Samaritan

THERE are some good people in Skelmersdale.

After sitting on the seat in Wilkinson in the Concourse checking my shopping list, I didn't realise that I had left my purse on the seat.

Panic then struck in when I went round the store picking my goods and realised that I didn't have my purse.

I went back to the seat and there was nothing there but the staff saw me so upset and surprised me by handing back my purse. They told me that a lady had found it and handed it in. I am so grateful for their honesty and I would like them to see this thank-you in the Champion.

Thank you very much, you really are a Good Samaritan.

Mrs Magee, Skelmersdale

High hospital car parking charges are unacceptable

IN relation to your report on the money that has been raised from the car parks at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals, I would like to point out that it is unacceptable to make visitors and patients pay for such high car parking charges.

My daughter was recently in hospital going to both hospital.

I purchased a £10 car park ticket but this was not interchangeable between the two sites until you went to the kiosk in the hospital which had limited opening hours.

This meant I was left unable to use my card and had no change or credit card on me. There was no one available at the car park, which left me very upset and in a dilemma.

The cashier at Southport was very helpful when I went to him the next day and he said that there were a lot of complaints of there being no one on the car park at night time.

Diane Nicklin, by email

National Insurance contributions should mean there's no need for car park fees

AFTER reading your report on parking fees at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals I too was disgusted at the charges that are in place - £2.90 after 20 minutes.

I attended Ormskirk Hospital twice on December 29 and 30 and only got stung once after spending just 30 minutes on an appointment.

The next day I parked in the surrounding estate but chose a suitable location not to cause any upset to local residents and walked some 10 minutes to attend my next appointment.

The point I would like to get to is, I work full-time and pay national insurance to fund the NHS, so the government should provide the money needed and it should not be funded by vulnerable people and staff that have to work there.

I had a choice to walk!

Paul Dreha, Aughton

County council £11m worse off than expected

LANCASHIRE County Council is £11m worse off than anticipated after the government's latest financial settlement was announced.

The Autumn Statement and Finance Settlement for local government will result in a total £303.3m reduction in central government support for the county council over the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

Council leader, County Councillor Jenny Mein, said: "We knew that the financial settlement would be bad news and that was reflected in our forecasts, but the actual figures are even worse than we had feared.

"The council's funding situation was already unprecedented in its severity and now it is going to be harder still to maintain the services people rely on.

"Our main priority will remain to protect services for the most vulnerable people in society, who cannot get by without the council's support, but even doing that will be ever more challenging in the next few years.

"We're currently consulting on budget proposals that highlight the fact the council cannot afford to keep running all of its services in their current form, and indeed that it appears some will have to stop altogether.

"I'm still keen to hear people's views and suggestions as to how some of those services might be delivered differently in future but the reality is that even once this year's budget is agreed the council will still have to find more than another £200m worth of savings."

The savings proposals agreed by the council's cabinet in November, a number of which are currently being consulted on with the public, are worth £64.8m. The latest budget figures mean the council will need to identify another £200.5m worth of savings by 2020/21.

Deputy leader David Borrow, who also holds the finance portfolio, said: "County councils have come out worst under the government's new funding formula and we're talking to government about how and whether the effects of this can be reduced, but it's an unavoidable fact we now have to take even more money out of services across Lancashire.

"Even before this latest announcement, we knew that the council will not have sufficient financial resources to meet its statutory obligations by April 2018 based on current spending levels and demand for services.

"Over the next two years the council will need to rely heavily on spending its reserves in order to balance its budget, and that money can only be spent once.

"The chancellor has said that the Revenue Support Grant will end in 2019/20 to be replaced by the money raised by business rates. It is now more important than ever that any changes to the funding formula reflect the essential role of county councils, not least in delivering social care in the communities they serve."

The first of a series of consultations is now under way, on plans for the library service, the withdrawal of subsidy for local bus services and ceasing to provide countryside services.

There are also opportunities to comment on the budget proposals as a whole and for community groups to express an interest in taking over council buildings or services. Further consultations will be launched shortly.

More information on how to comment is available at http://www.lancashire.gov.uk

Student housing plan approved for former restaurant site

PLANS to turn the former Fat Olive restaurant in Ormskirk into student housing have been given the go-ahead.

It was one of a number of planning applications decided at the meeting of West Lancs Council's planning committee meeting on Thursday, January 14.

The proposal to turn the former eaterie into student housing with 20 en-suite bedrooms was approved with conditions, as were plans to demolish buildings at Pear Tree Farm on Lowry Hill Lane, Lathom to create three detached garages.

The council also gave the go-ahead to plans to turn Moor Hall in Aughton, which has origins dating back to the 13th century, into a bistro. Planning permission and listed building consent were granted to change the use of the barn and make alterations to the roof so it can be used as a bistro with storage.

However, plans to turn a property in Holly Close in Westhead into a six-bedroomed house of multiple occupancy (HMO) have been refused. The plans had been met with anger by local residents, who told the Champion that the close is mostly inhabited by pensioners, many of whom are widowed, and families with very young children.

Speaking about the plans for the former Fat Olive, Derby ward Councillor Adrian Owens said: "We made the case that this was over-concentration of this type of accommodation in this locality and that was accepted by planning officers in their report. Many councillors were also convinced and it was very disappointing therefore that the application was narrowly approved."

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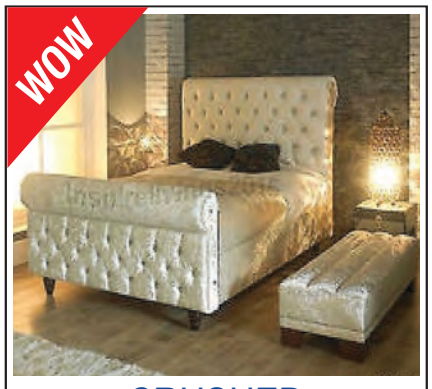

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MP fears 'back door' cuts to police budget

ROSIE Cooper is calling for clarification from the government on the announcement that funding for police forces will be frozen rather than cut.

The West Lancs MP is still concerned that front-line policing will be under pressure, as more details have begun to emerge following the chancellor's announcement to freeze rather than cut funding for the force.

It is feared that funding committed for counter-terrorism, the emergency services mobile communications programme and transformation funding for some forces will be top-sliced from police budgets rather than new funding being provided.

Ms Cooper has written to the Home Secretary to seek clarification on how these funding commitments will affect policing in the community.

She said: "A freeze is better than the planned cuts. Although this still puts pressure on police budgets and is no promise against future cuts.

"I am concerned that what we might see is cuts by the back door to local police budgets to fund the government's commitments rather than new money to tackle security threats.

"Despite the funding u-turn Lancashire Police, recognised as an 'outstanding' force, continues to face major challenges.

"Even ahead of the Autumn Statement I was dealing with a case which involved a break-in at a local business. The police were called but were unable to send an officer. It was several days before an officer attended.

"Even our best police forces are having to make tough decisions on dealing with each incident.

"People deserve to feel safe in their homes and on the street but this government is weakening front-line policing with every passing week."

She has previously challenged Home Office ministers on the effects of cuts to policing budgets on local communities, including in March last year when she raised concerns about plans for further cuts on top of the £60 million of cuts already incurred in Lancashire since 2010.

Responding in the House of Commons during Home Office Questions, policing minister Mike Penning said: "The Home Secretary and I have made it clear that there is no question but that the police will have the resources to do their important work".

However Rosie Cooper challenged the statement as being "misleading."

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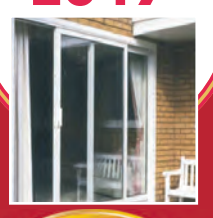

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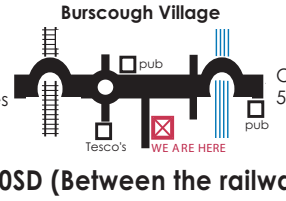

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Junior doctors on the picket line during last week's strike

Junior doctors speak out in defence of strikes

Report by **Henry James**

JUNIOR doctors who went on a 24-hour strike at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals last Tuesday have spoken out to defend their actions, claiming they are doing it to protect patients' safety in the long term.

The action was the first in a series of three nation-wide strikes junior doctors have planned in their dispute with the government over new contracts.

The 24-hour walk-out began at 8am on Tuesday, January 12 through to 8am on Wednesday, January 13,

'We were well supported by the public - some people brought us food and hot drinks'

Fiona Greenslade, 27, and Mairi Thompson, 34, who are both Foundation 1 junior doctors, based at Southport Hospital, were on the picket line at the Kew site. However, they told the Champion that 'nobody wanted to go on strike.'

Fiona said: "I think we speak for all junior doctors when we say nobody wanted to go on strike.

"The current contract is unsafe for patients and unfair for ourselves. The government essentially wants us to work longer hours for less pay.

"They want to remove safeguards that restrict our hours. We feel if the safeguards are removed it will lead to us working more hours with less rest in between, which could lead to more mistakes. The key message is that tired doctors make mistakes which could be unsafe for patients."

Asked about the disruption the strikes had caused, they responded: "We feel very sorry, but feel that we were backed into a corner.

"We are doing this for patients' safety in the long term. We feel it is better to have some inconvenience now, than the changes costing lives in the long run.

"We were well supported by the public during the first strike last Tuesday. Some lovely people brought food and hot drinks for us. Thanks to everyone who has supported us."

Trust bosses say patients in need of emergency hospital care will receive their treatment, when they need it, during the strike action.

The next strike is planned for Tuesday, January 26.

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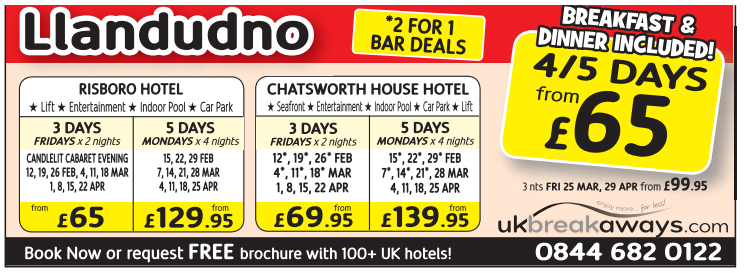
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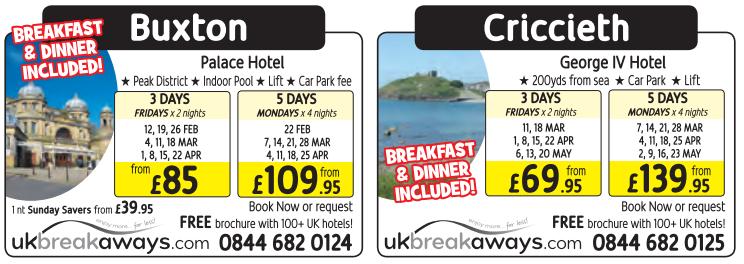
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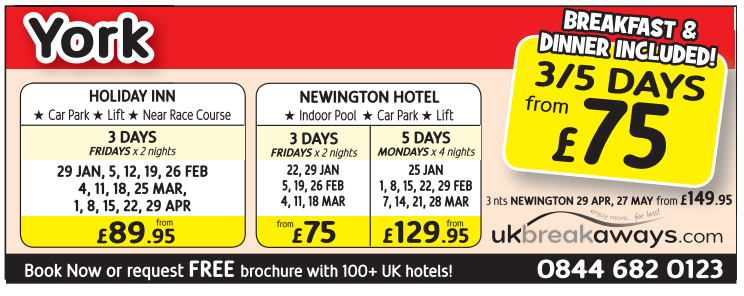
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Bus route decision set to be contested

DISCUSSIONS are to be held re-visiting the 375/385 service re-routing that has affected West Lancashire bus passengers traveling to Southport and Formby District General Hospital.

Representatives from Arriva Buses and Southport and Formby Hospital NHS Trust are meeting to discuss concerns following the decision to alter the route last year.

Previously the service used bus stops on Town Lane in Southport located at the front entrance of the hospital requiring just a short walk for those attending an appointment or visiting.

Now passengers have to get off the bus on Scarisbrick New Road use a cut through path at the side of the hospital, which is not even a proper entrance.

This has significantly increased the distance people have to walk to get into the hospital along this poorly lit and uneven track. Many of whom are disabled, elderly and ill.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper has welcomed the meetings and said: "I very much welcome the discussion taking place between Arriva and the hospital on how to address the issues and complaints that have arisen since the bus service was re-routed.

MP Rosie Cooper wants to debate the re-routing of the 375 and 385 bus services in West Lancashire

"We await to see the outcome of this meeting although sadly I am not holding my breath on the service being returned to its previous route stopping at the front of the hospital. It would be a great start to the New Year, much better for those patients and visitors to the hospital if Arriva would change their mind and go back to the original bus stop."

Ms Cooper has previously met with Arriva Bus bosses to express her concerns over the service changes and how West Lancashire bus passengers attending the hospital have been affected.

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Time to honour unsung young citizens

IF you know a young person in Lancashire who deserves recognition for their efforts on behalf of others now is the time to put them forward for a prestigious award.

The closing date for nominations for the High Sheriff of Lancashire's Young Citizen of the Year 2016 awards - once again sponsored by BAE Systems - is Sunday, January 31.

The awards are designed to promote and celebrate the fantastic work that young people do every day which goes unheard of and unrecognised.

And High Sheriff Amanda Parker is calling on residents to put forward the names of inspiring young people in the country who have put others first.

She said: "These youngsters give selflessly of their time to support and help their peers and neighbours of all ages. And we want you to tell us about someone you know who deserve an award."

Ian Wood, operations director at BAE Systems at Samlesbury, said: "We know from previous years that there are a great number of young people in the county who make an outstanding contribution to the communities in which they live."

And Lancashire Constabulary's chief constable Steve Finnigan, added: "We know through our Volunteer Police Cadets that young people have a lot to offer and I am pleased to play a part in making sure they get the recognition and support they deserve."

Winners and runners-up are selected by the High Sheriff and a panel of judges and all finalists will be invited to a presentation in the spring when the winner will receive £500 towards a project or charity of their choice, plus a specially-commissioned trophy and certificate.

Approval of a parent or guardian is needed for the nomination, subsequent publicity and any future events involving the finalists.

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College celebrates 40 years of Prince's Trust

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancashire College has joined HRH Prince Charles in celebrating over 40 years of the Prince's Trust in the UK.

Prince's Trust programmes aim to offer young people aged 16-25 an opportunity to get into jobs, education or training and have a big impact on the West Lancashire community.

During the programme learners are able to try new things and learn how to work with others, take part in community projects and plan their future.

Over the last 40 years, 800,000 people have benefited directly from the charity and West Lancashire College have been host to 60 Prince's Trust teams across four locations which have seen over 600 learners successfully complete the programme with many learners progressing into further education, training or employment.

West Lancashire College Prince's Trust Team 42 Skelmersdale have recently celebrated winning the "Community Impact Award" at the Prince's Trust North West Celebrate Success Awards held at The Concert Hall, St Georges Hall, Liverpool. The team are now hoping to go through to the National Celebrate Success Awards which will be held in spring 2016 where they will have the chance to meet HRH Prince Charles too.

They are currently recruiting for new teams starting this month, Skelmersdale Team 46 and Kirkby Team 03 started on January 11 with Ormskirk Team 10 and Southport Team 5 started on January 18. For more information call 01695 52300.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Classic car club raises £250 for children's charity

MEMBERS of a classic car club have donated more than £250 to a children and young people's charity.

The West Lancs MG Owners' Club (WLMGOC) held a Christmas dinner and a drinks hamper raffle to raise money for Twinkle House, a free sensory-based personalised support service for children and young people aged up to 19 years old with disabilities and additional needs living in West Lancashire and neighbouring areas.

Steve Kirton from the club said: "It was lovely to make a donation to Twinkle House.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

The sensory rooms are a warm and very peaceful place to be and they also have many other rooms including sleep support, a dance studio and even a hydrotherapy pool.

This local charity is providing a great service to the community."

To find out more information about the Twinkle House Children's Charity, visit www.twinklehouse.co.uk.

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Council signs up to Digital Skills Charter

THE leader of West Lancs Council is signing the Digital Skills Charter to pledge the authority's commitment to improving basic digital skills in the community.

The charter is an initiative led by Go ON UK, a national charitable organisation, which aims to make the UK the world's most digitally skilled nation. It has attracted support from dozens of public and private sector organisations.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran said: "By signing the Digital Skills Charter, the council is making public our commitment to play our part in assisting residents and council staff to gain the basic digital skills so vital in the world today. We are already working with partner organisations in West Lancashire and we hope this will help motivate others to sign up and play their part."

The charter signing follows the launch of the council's first Digital Inclusion Strategy, which sets out how it will work with partners to boost skill levels, raise awareness, and help more people get connected to the Internet and benefit from its use.

Signing the charter also supports a wider aim to increase the number of residents using the council's online services, which in the long term will improve efficiency.

Actions the council has already taken includes launching a new, mobile-friendly website, working to improve and extend information and services available through the site and holding events with partners to help people get online.

Other projects in the pipeline include recruiting and training community digital champions, investigating cheaper broadband for residents and trialling public WiFi hotspots in a number of locations.

Basic online skills are defined as the ability to manage information, communicate, buy and sell, solve problems and create digital content. Research by Go ON UK shows that while the majority of adults in West Lancs have those skills, 23% do not, and 15.5% have never been online.

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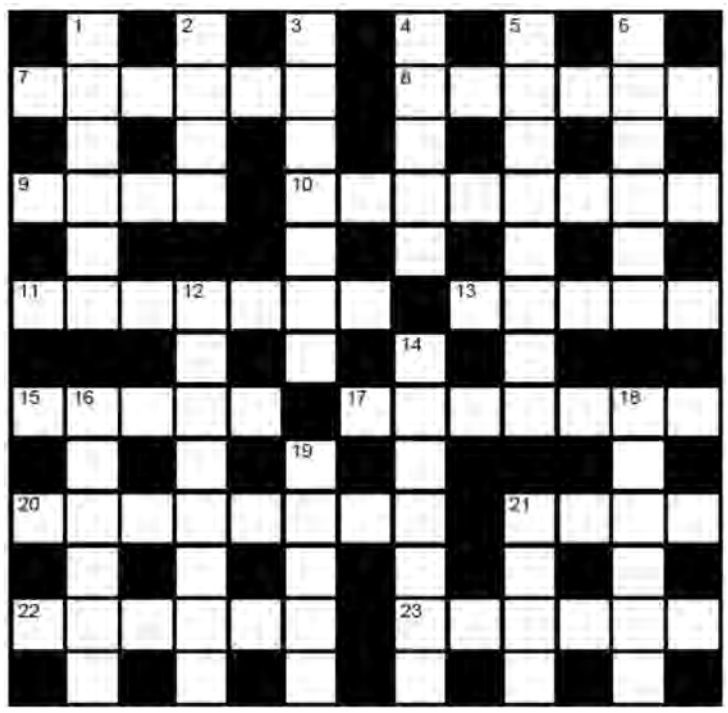

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7 Auburn. 8 Uneven. 9 Fees. 10 Pendulum. 11 Bewitch. 13 Sixty. 15 Feint. 16 Recycle. 18 Calabash. 19 Undo. 21. Scurry. 22 Phrase.
Down: 1 Lure. 2 Questionnaire. 3 Inspect. 4 Funny. 5 Security guard. 6 Rebuttal. 12 Elegance. 14 Reshape. 17 Satyr. 20 Desk.

ACROSS

7 Summer house (6)
8 German submarines of first and second World Wars (1-5)
9 Opposed to (4)
10 Perceptible by touch, solid (8)
11 Bewilder, perplex (7)
13 Consequently (5)
15 Authority to act or vote for another (5)
17 Female spirit in Irish legend whose wailing foretells of a death (7)
20 Not fully developed (8)
21 Structure of bars or wires used to keep animals or birds in (4)
22 Cause to be entangled in something (6)
23 The voice box (6)

DOWN

1 For the most part (6)
2 Mythical creature of the Himalayas (4)
3 To strengthen (7)
4 Alternative name for the Bluefin Tuna (5)
5 Title or form of address given to Pope (8)
6 Sloping typeface often for emphasis (6)
12 Someone who pays taxes (8)
14 The kneecap (7)
16 A committal to custody (6)
18 Machine with moving parts that converts power into motion (6)
19 (Archaic) Anything at all (5)
21 Soft white substance formed when milk coagulates used as a basis for cheese (4)

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A call out for new trustees

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Monday 1st February 2016 1.30 to 3.30 pm
1.30 to 3.30pm to our project base at 14- 16 Westgate, Skelmersdale WN8 8AZ

We began life in 2003 as a project geared towards understanding the importance of food and diet. We like to think that our food and wellbeing activities are universal tools that can bring people together in a confidential, social and non-judgemental way.

We are currently in receipt of the final year of a 3-year Big Lottery grant and have contracts with our local West Lancs CCG and Lancashire County Council Public Health. This is an exciting time to join our Board as we look towards developing our services in 2016 and beyond.

We want to hear from you if you possess the skills, experience, motivation and commitment to help our small but very ambitious organisation.

We are looking for new trustees to help:
- Safeguard our long-term future and ensure high standards of governance
- Work well with fellow board members and the Manager
- Be a positive advocate for the work and programmes that SCFI create and deliver

We would want our new trustees to have:
- A respect and belief in the effectiveness of supporting health and wellbeing initiatives
- An understanding (or a willingness to learn) of the needs and demands of a small charity in 2016
- A skill that would be transferable from any walk of life i.e.: business, HR, financial or health backgrounds

What is in it for you?
We will give you an opportunity to share your experience, being part of a team that is making an impact into people's lives. We offer all our trustees the opportunity for training and ongoing development paid for along with travelling expenses if needed

If you have the time, enthusiasm, skills and knowledge to commit to us then take a moment to look at our website www.scfi.org.uk and come along on

For more information please contact the Manager, Deirdre Mitten on 01695 720 555 or email: enquiries.scfi@gmail.com.

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Chance for those hit by floods to have their say

RESIDENTS of West Lancashire who have been affected by the recent flooding can have their say on the issue at two public meetings being held in the next two weeks.

They can also find out more about the support available at the community roadshows which will run from 3 to 8pm at Parbold Village Hall on Monday, January 5 and at The Toby Carvery (formerly the Fiveways Public House) County Road, Ormskirk on Monday, February 1.

The drop-in sessions will allow local people to inform flood risk management in their community by providing information on their experiences.

This will help identify the extent and cause of local flooding and inform recovery work.

It's also an opportunity to speak to different agencies, ask questions, raise concerns and find out about funding and support.

The Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council will be leading the roadshows, supported by staff from West Lancs Borough Council and Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service.

These locations have been chosen as they are in the most densely populated areas affected by residential flooding.

Dan Bond, Environment Agency manager, said: "You can't underestimate the devastating impacts of flooding on people's lives and the key to recovering quickly and increasing our flood resilience in the long term, is to listen to the people who encounter it first-hand and learn from their experiences.

"We've been visiting affected communities since the flooding began in early December and these drop-in sessions are the start of a more co-ordinated approach to involving local people in the development of local flood risk management plans.

"We would encourage anyone affected by flooding to come along and talk to us. We will have technical experts from the Environment Agency and county council available to chat to, along with a number of agencies that can provide advice and support."

Leader of West Lancs Council, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "This has been the biggest flooding event in West Lancashire for a very long time, with more than 240 properties affected.

"I would urge the residents caught up in the floods to make sure they come to one of the drop-in sessions so they can speak about their experiences to help the agencies responsible for flood risk management."

For more information call the Environment Agency's floodline number on 0345 988 1188.

First residents move into new care development

THE FIRST residents have moved into a new care development in West Lancashire.

Stocks Hall Nursing and Care Group's Stocks Hall Living development in Mawdesley at the old Mawdesley Eating House site includes a 42-bed nursing/residential care bed development and 13 luxury apartments that can be privately bought, as well as a cinema, hairdressing salon and gardens.

A team of staff, including nurses, carers and support staff, are on hand 24 hours a day, overseen by nursing home and independent living manager, Faye Wilkinson.

Faye Wilkinson said: "I'm so pleased we've finally been able to start to move our residents into their new home.

"The residents have settled in and made themselves feel at home, we never under-estimate what a big step it is moving into a new environment.

"Members of our team are chosen for their compassion and respect enabling them to support each individual in reaching their potential to enjoy fulfilled and dignified lives, whatever their needs.

"We are immensely proud of this project and it's brilliant to hear how happy the new residents are too."

Some of the new residents are pictured with manager Faye Wilkinson (left) and deputy manager Kelly Hull .

Funding Boost for businesses

A BUSINESS support service based in Lancashire has won a £7.8million funding boost.

Boost Business Lancashire, the county's business growth hub, will be given the funds to continue supporting ambitious companies up to 2018.

£3.8m of the funding comes from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), with the rest coming from Lancashire County Council, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Growth Deal and private sector sources.

Jennifer Mein, leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "Businesses from across the county have really embraced Boost and it's been one of the most successful and engaging business support services we've ever had in Lancashire. Boost has helped to create around 1,200 jobs and new economic activity valued in excess of £50m."

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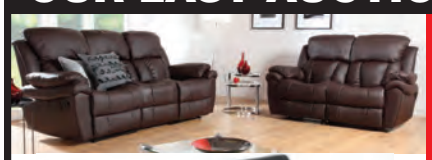

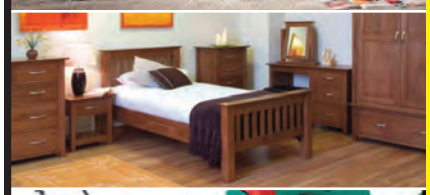

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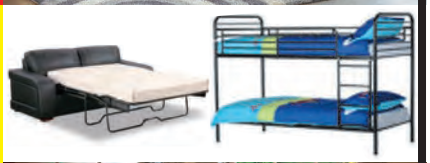

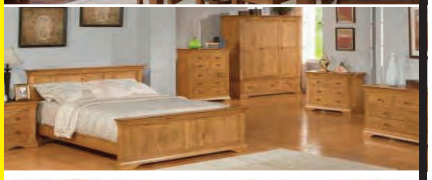

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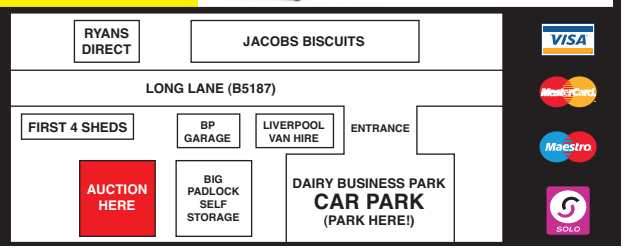

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Lack of blue top milk leaves a sour taste . . .

I AM normally tolerant person.

Oh yes I am!

Well, perhaps not always.

But quite often it is little things that bug me - like other people's intolerance.

I know I am often guilty of slating folk whose views differ from my own sage insights.

But it is pretty rarely that I actually wish to ban them in any way from holding those (misguided) views. Or indeed to hold them up to ridicule for holding them.

Which is why so-called 'comedians' 'seem to think that people such as I, who happen to like reading the Daily Mail of a morning should regularly be held in contempt and objects fit for their 'comic' derision.

If I wanted to be unpleasant about the daily papers some folk choose I could mount an 'amusing' rant about the red tops - but since I don't usually think of comics (of the paper sort) as newspapers anyway, I will refrain from doing so.

But, to those who find the Mail an object of fun poking, why is it then that it is usually the oh so awful Daily Mail that sells out first?

I kid you not - particularly when I am on holiday in Norfolk and sometimes can't get to a paper shop 'till mid or late morning, I know for certain that it is an odds-on bet that my first choice paper will be sold out.

Which is a bummer for me because I can usually manage the Mail crossword.

And there's more.

Because talking of items I want selling out - because apparently it is so unpopular - is bog standard blue top milk.

The health and safety brigade have done a really good job on that one.

After all, I would be forced to agree that in tea or coffee you can use the green stuff without noticing its lack of taste too much.

But that is my point. Some years ago we were all exhorted to 'Drink a Pinta Milka Day' - and at one time in my lonely one-room bedsit I did just that each morning before setting off to work - but I shouldn't think that very many folk still do.

But even if you accept, as I do, that blue top milk has a higher fat content than green top (or of course that useless - as milk - tasteless red top liquid) then frankly so what?

Most people, I guess, like me use milk mainly if not solely in tea and coffee.

So given that red top is not totally fat (or taste) free anyway, how much difference to your heart's health is it really going to make?

I have no wish to deprive anyone of their green top milk if they really want it. But this particular health mania has now reached such proportions that at least one large store group no longer sells the 'standard' stuff at all.

Which means that I have to make a separate visit to a different supermarket just to buy milk. ordinary, standard, milk.

And since it is normally available in other shops (though increasingly these days hidden at the bottom of the fridge) that is what I am forced to do.

I was chuffed when butter (and lard) were re-admitted to the fold of things you can eat after all.

So isn't it about time some health study or another came out with statistics showing that a pinta blue top is not in fact likely to lead to your premature demise - and might just indeed make you life generally just that bit more fun again?

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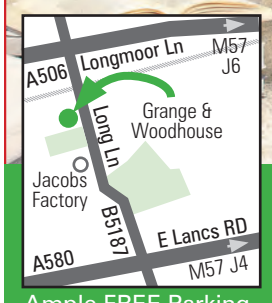

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CCTV appeal over purse theft

POLICE have issued a belated CCTV appeal in a bid to trace a man they want to speak to in connection with the theft of a purse from an elderly woman shopping in Ormskirk.

The theft occurred shortly after 11am on Monday, December 21 as the 89-year-old victim made her way around Morrisons in Park Road.

Officers believe she was followed around the store before the purse was taken from her handbag.

PC Justin Fraser from Lancashire Constabulary said: "This was a callous theft in which an elderly victim was targeted while she was shopping.

"We are keen to trace the man pictured in the images and I would urge anyone who recognises him or has any information about the theft to contact us."

The man is described as white, in his late 30s and of a slim build with short, dark, greying hair. He was wearing a blue, hooded jacket, blue jeans, black footwear and a grey-and-white checked scarf. He also had a distinctive tattoo on his left hand above his thumb and forefinger.

One of the CCTV images of the man police are seeking to trace in connection with the theft.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101. Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at Crimestoppers-uk.org.

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Gallery plays host to prestigious exhibition

THE Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk is currently hosting the prestigious World Illustration Awards 2015 Touring Exhibition after its hugely successful stint at Somerset House in London.

The awards aim to recognise the exceptional work produced by illustrators around the world and the selected highlights are toured around the UK.

The Chapel Gallery has secured the only confirmed venue slot in the North of England from last Saturday (January 16) to Saturday, February 20.

Work by international artists from the UK to South Korea and South Africa to The Netherlands features in the exhibition which includes the 16 category winners whose work has been selected from more than 2,000 international entries and honoured for its creativity and craftsmanship. The winners fall into two sections - professional, open to all practicing professionals; and new talent, open to students and recent graduates.

Showing alongside this exhibition until Saturday, February 13 is Manchester fine art painter, Anthony Ogden.

Inspired by masters, such as Caravaggio, Velasquez and Rembrandt, he employs their techniques to produce his own rich and enigmatic works.

Anthony Ogden was voted Peoples' Prize Winner from the West Lancashire Open Exhibition 2014.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "The Chapel Gallery is starting 2016 with some wonderful exhibitions so make sure you come along and see some wonderful art on display."

The gallery in St Helens Road is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4.30pm. For more details go to www.chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk

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Volunteers clear 20 bags of rubbish from canal

A GROUP of public-spirited volunteers spent a day clearing rubbish from the reed beds along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.

Canal and Rivers Trust volunteers were joined by members of the Parbold Wildlife Group and despite the terrible weather, they managed to clear 20 bags of rubbish from the canal in Newburgh - including a tractor tyre!

Parbold Wildlife Group was set up in 2005 to promote the protection and enhancement of the wildlife and landscape throughout the village for the benefit of the local community, while the Canal and Rivers Trust is a charitable trust set up to look after the waterways of England and Wales.

Chris Abel from Parbold Wildlife Group said: "We did very well - in spite of the awful weather - and the group was very grateful for the help of the Canal and Rivers Trust volunteers. It is a really good start to the canal's bicentenary year!"

For information on volunteering with the Canal and Rivers Trust email Alice.Kay@canalrivertrust.org.uk or for information of Parbold Wildlife group email abelchris@talktalk.net

Edge Hill student wins chance to showcase ideas on TV

A TALENTED stop-motion animation student has been chosen as one of just five competition winners from across the country to bring her ideas to life in a CCBC initiative.

Kira Adams, who is studying at Edge Hill University, was chosen to film a short animation for The Scream Street Shorts based on CBBC's hit new series Scream Street and will start filming this week at the production company Factory.

CBBC launched the initiative in October, in partnership with animation production company, Factory, and international media group and rights holders, Coolabi.

Students from all disciplines were invited to take part in the creative development opportunity, to generate ideas for a short animation in the form of a storyboard and/or animatic, using two characters from CBBC's new stop-motion animated show, Scream Street.

The students will each spend a week at Factory to bring their storyboard/animatic to life under the guidance of Jo Chalkley, a stop motion animator with over 25 years' experience in the industry. Filming will last for five weeks and the shorts will launch on CBBC platforms next spring.

The students can use the shorts as an example of their work and will be credited 'created from an idea by'.

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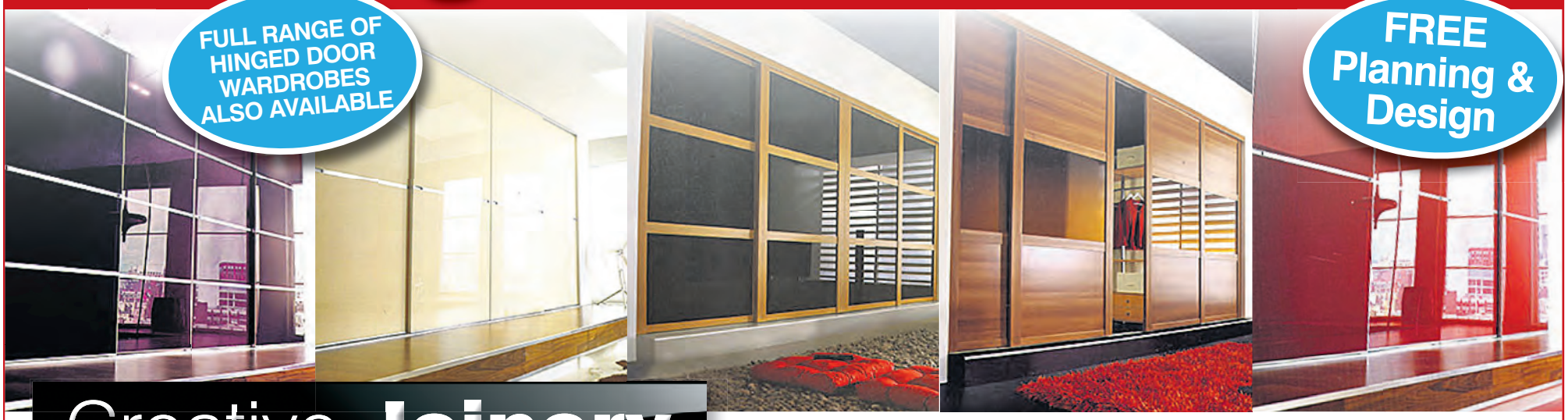

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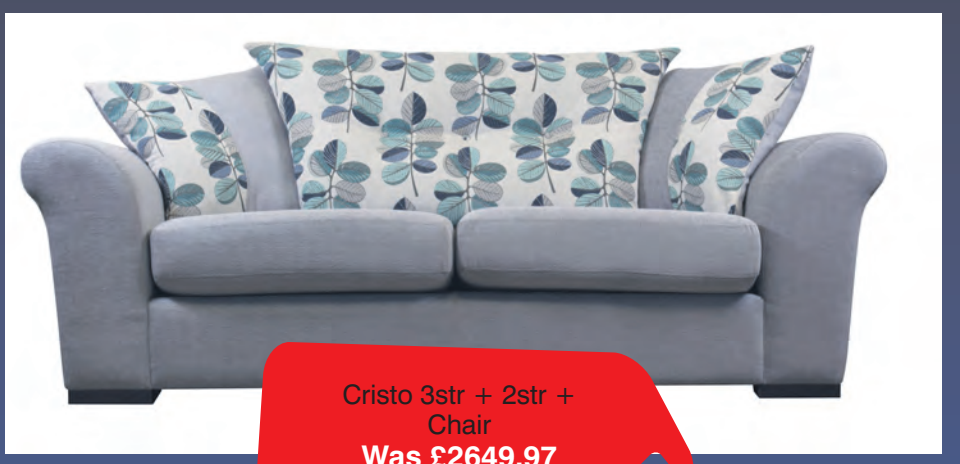

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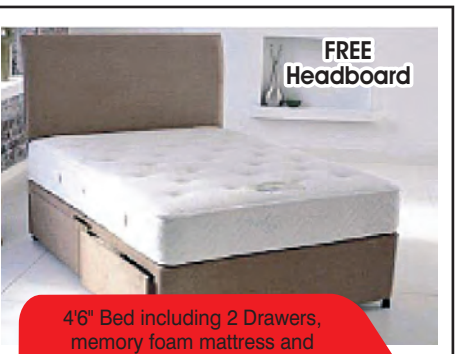

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Society's top tips for a happier life

MEMBERS of a local friendship society have shared their top tips for feeling happier in later life.

Judith Catton, social organiser for the the Ormskirk & Southport Oddfellows Society said: "We've more than 200 years' experience in helping people to get more out of life and to form lasting friendships, so we thought we'd share a little of what we've learnt along the way."

1. Keep your brain busy.

Challenge yourself with crosswords, start a course, catch a talk or play, or write a letter. Research has found that staying mentally active can increase your brain's vitality. You'll be impressed by your productivity and have fun along the way.

2. Help others.

Not only does volunteering encourage you to mix socially, it can supercharge self-confidence, self-esteem and life satisfaction. Millions of people over 60 help out with at least two different charities, citing one of the reasons as enjoying having a purpose in life.

3. Join a local club or society.

More often than not, regular contact with those who share a common interest or hobby will result in meaningful friendships. Research has shown that people in mid to later years who have a wide circle of friends tend to be happier and healthier.

4. Get physical.

There are so many rewards to regular exercise aside from keeping trim. It reduces many cardiovascular risks, including high blood pressure and heart disease. It also gives your mental health a boost, helping combat stress, anxiety and depression. Weight-bearing exercise, such as running is also good to protect against osteoporosis. For the less mobile, 'chairobics' is a great option.

Members of the Ormskirk & Southport Oddfellows Society

5. Seize the day!

Society research revealed that one of the benefits to retirement was being able to shop during less busy hours and not having to leave household chores to the weekend. By using time more wisely, you can do more of what you love – including steps one to four!

Judith added: "We can certainly help people on their way to achieving most of these points. We invite anyone, of any age to come along and give us a try – call it a happiness trial!"

For information on how to get involved, call Judith on 01704 545279 or email judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk

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Schools could visit Martin Mere for free

TEACHERS are being asked by bosses at Martin Mere to check if they qualify for a free school visit to the Burscough centre.

When Sir Peter Scott created the wetland centre more than 40 years ago, he intended it to be a place where people would enjoy themselves while learning about the venue's amazing wildlife.

Today, some 10,000 schoolchildren from Lancashire, Merseyside and further afield visit the centre at all times of the year to do just that - many for free as part of the centre's free school visits offer for those with more than 20% on free school meals.

A spokeswoman for Martin Mere said: "Educating school children is central to everything we do at Martin Mere. We keep our guided learning sessions fresh by introducing new ways for children to learn.

"As the weather warms up and the swans leave us in March, we will be starting our busy time with many groups doing pond dipping, minibeast hunting, learning about wetland mammals, plants and more."

To find out more about the education sessions and if a school qualifies for a free visit ring 01704 891244.

ABOVE: Children on a school visit to Martin Mere

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Rock n' roll star to kick off new year at theatre

ROCK 'n' Roll star Joe Brown kicks off the new year at Southport Theatre this Sunday, January 24, at 7.30pm.

His performance promises to be a true celebration of a career spanning six decades.

His 'Very Best Of' album achieved a Gold Record for a massive 120,000 sales in 2008 and was on the UK charts for eight weeks, staying four weeks in the Top 20. In the same year his 50th anniversary was celebrated with a wonderful sell-out show at the Royal Albert Hall. His 2012 CD, The Ukulele Album, caused a similar stir and, due to its success, a Deluxe version was released the following year.

Joe has continued to break box office records and in 2009 received MOJO magazine's coveted Outstanding Contribution To Music Award as well as an MBE.

Meanwhile dig out your 80s fashions and party as '80s Mania' hits Southport Theatre on Friday, January 29 at 7.30pm.

Legwarmers and big hair are the order of the day as the show takes to the Southport Theatre stage. Europe's official 1980's multi-tribute concert features 25 chart-topping pop icons, authentically recreated with a live band and awesome dancers. And dressing up can only add to the party atmosphere.

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Joe Brown

80s with tributes to Duran Duran, The Human League, Kim Wilde, Culture Club, Madonna, Wham!, Nena, Toni Basil, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Bananarama, Dead or Alive, Madness and many more.

Russian violinist, to play in Parbold

THE Russian–born, hinternational violinist, Alina Ibragimova who is performing in Douglas Music, Parbold's January 23 sold-out concert in Parbold, was awarded an MBE for her services to music in the 2016 New Year's Honours List.

Alina's reaction to her award was: "I am delighted and privileged to accept this honour, as someone for whom the United Kingdom has become a musical and inspirational home.

"My career in music couldn't have happened without the support and generosity of the musical culture of this country. I am thrilled to receive this MBE."

Alina Ibragimova is one of the most accomplished and intriguing violinists of the younger generation, a status confirmed by her five performances in 2015's BBC Proms.

These included concertos with a symphony orchestra, with a baroque ensemble and two late-night solo recitals in front of full houses in the Royal Albert Hall, which were listed in the 2015's top five classical music events.

At her 2014 Douglas Music concert she played works by Ysaÿe

Alina Ibragimova

and recorded them a few days later to create Gramophone's 'Best recording of 2015'.

At her sold-out January concert in Parbold she will be playing Mozart and will be accompanied by concert pianist, Cedric Tiberghein. The waiting list for returns for this concert is closed.

Douglas Music's concert on Saturday, February 20, in the Auditorium, Parbold Village Hall features the internationally renowned cellist, Steven Isserlis, playing some of Bach's Suites. Steven Isserlis is one of the two cellists in Gramophone's Hall of Fame. There are only very few tickets left for this concert and a sell-out is expected shortly.

More information at www.parbolddouglas-music.org

Couple book 50th holiday with Travelstyle Tours!

Coach tour operator Travelstyle Tours is a favourite with travelling partners Mrs Dixon and Mr Murphy, as they have booked their 50th holiday in the four year span they have been using the service. To thank them for their support, Travelstyle visited the couple's home in Cleethorpes and gave them a free weekend away of their choosing.

When asking about their favourite places that they have been with the company, Mrs Dixon answered: "They've all been good with clean hotels and nice food. The last holiday we went on included the Anderton Boat Lift and Llangollen."

Since the two have now reached the 50th holiday mark, it's no surprise that they have revisited many places. They have been to the Isle of Wight six times where they have stayed at hotels such as the Tarvic 2, which is located on Sandown's attractive seafront. When talking about Isle of Wight, Mr Murphy said: "When we visit Sandown, we like a nice walk down to Shanklin and we both enjoy a cup of tea in one of the cafes!" They've also revisited seaside destination Torquay many times, as they enjoy staying at the Cavendish hotel, and Blackpool is a firm favourite where they stay at the Savoy and the Hacketts York House Hotel.

Mrs Dixon said how she was recognised on one of their Travelstyle holidays. "When I was at Fairlands hotel [in Eastbourne], the hotel owner said to me 'I know you. You're from Cleethorpes!' and it turned out that it was my old boss from the Findus factory in Grimsby." Although, that's not all who recognises the pair, as Mrs. Dixon said: "Some of the coach drivers recognise us and are like, 'Ey up, where you off to today?!" She went on to say how all the Johnson coach drivers are "pleasant and nice."

Mr Murphy went on to say about Travelstyle holidays: "You just can't beat the price of them!" They're now looking forward to their first break of 2016.

Travelstyle Tours picks up from various locations throughout the North West, West and East Midlands, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, North Midlands and Essex and Suffolk. Order Travelstyle's 2016 brochure by calling them on 0844 682 7000 or by visiting online at www.travelstyletours.co.uk/brochure-request and maybe you will see Mrs Dixon and Mr Murphy on their 51st holiday!

Travelstyle thanked the couple for their continued support with a free weekend away. ***From Left to Right: Mrs Dixon, Mr Murphy and Travelstyle's Catherine Smith.*** *Image taken by Christopher Allen.*

Gazza to give one off show in city

ENGLAND football star Paul Gascoigne is coming to Liverpool next month for a one off show speaking live on stage at the Epstein Theatre on Hanover Street.

The show which is on Thursday, February 25 at 7.30pm, promises to be an interesting night as Paul bares his soul to a live audience speaking candidly about his rollercoaster career and life, there are no holds barred, no subjects off limits.

Paul Gascoigne's football career is particularly remembered for his England caps. He earned 57 appearances for his country and is described by the National Football Museum as "the most naturally gifted English midfielder of his generation".

Gazza - as he is affectionately known by sports fans - was part of the squad that reached fourth place in the 1990 World Cup, where he was famously reduced to tears after receiving a yellow card in the semi-final with West Germany, meaning he would be suspended for the final itself had England won the game.

Gascoigne also helped the England team to the semi-finals of Euro 1996; once again embedding himself in the nation's hearts and minds with a spectacular goal against Scotland - coupled with the memorable "Dentist's Chair" goal celebration!

The promoter and comedian Jed Stone feels the Paul is often misunderstood and said: "Paul Gascoigne is simply one of English football's most enduring icons."

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SAT 2, 23 APR, 7, 21 MAY, 25 JUN, 2, 16, 30 JUL

LLANDUDNO & CHESTER DOUBLE BILL TRIBUTE WEEKEND
3 DAYS £99.95
TWO NIGHTS HALF BOARD Grand Hotel
11 MAR ELTON JOHN (FRI) / ROD STEWART (SAT)
18 MAR FRANK SINATRA (FRI) / MICHAEL BUBLE (SAT)
15 APR ELVIS (FRI) / TOM JONES (SAT)
22 APR ABBA (FRI) / KYLIE (SAT)
21 OCT JOHNNY CASH (FRI) / DOLLY PARTON (SAT)

CADBURY WORLD & WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK
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SAT 26 MAR, 28 MAY, 2, 30 JUL, 6, 27 AUG

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MON 18 APR, 30 MAY, 20 JUN, 18 JUL, 8 AUG

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2 for 1 BAR 6pm-9pm (T&C APPLY)
3 DAYS £99.95
TWO NIGHTS HALF BOARD Grand Hotel
• Two tribute acts - one each night
26 FEB - ELVIS / TOM JONES
18 MAR - ELTON JOHN / ROD STEWART

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HALF BOARD breaks at the Seascape/Bancourt Hotel, Torquay
• Includes admission to the Eden Project
• Scenic drive to Brixham (5/7 day tours only)
4 DAYS FRIDAYS: 18, 25 MAR; 22, 29 APR; 17 JUN; 22, 29 JUL; 5, 12, 19, 26 AUG; 23 SEP
5 DAYS MONDAYS: 28 MAR; 18, 25 APR; 16 MAY; 13, 20, 27 JUN; 18, 25 JUL; 8, 15, 22 AUG
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HOLME LACY
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SUN 24th
THE LEGENDARY **JOE BROWN IN CONCERT**

FRI 29th
80'S MANIA 2016
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FEBRUARY

SAT 6th
SOUL EXPLOSION
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SAT 13th
AMERICAN SUPERSLAM WRESTLING
Superb family entertainment

FRI 19th
ABBA REUNION

SAT 20th
WHITNEY – QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
A celebration of the music and life of Whitney Houston

MON 29th
THE WORLD FAMOUS MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS
featuring back-flipping, juggling, wire-walking and roller-skating performers

MARCH

FRI 4th
CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS
Jailbreak Tour

SAT 5th
THE AMAZING VOCAL TALENTS OF **JOE LONGTHORNE**

MON 7th
RENOWNED TV CHEF **JAMES MARTIN**
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FRI 11th
TOTALLY TINA
A tribute to the Queen of Rock, Tina Turner

THU 17th
THE BOOTLEG BEATLES
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SAT 19th
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
The world's official No 1 Eagles tribute

SUN 20th (12pm-3pm)
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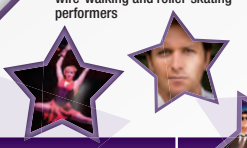

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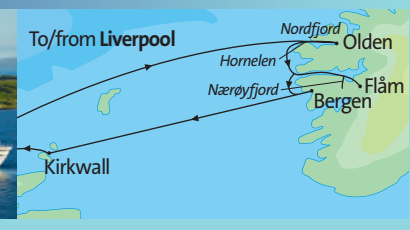

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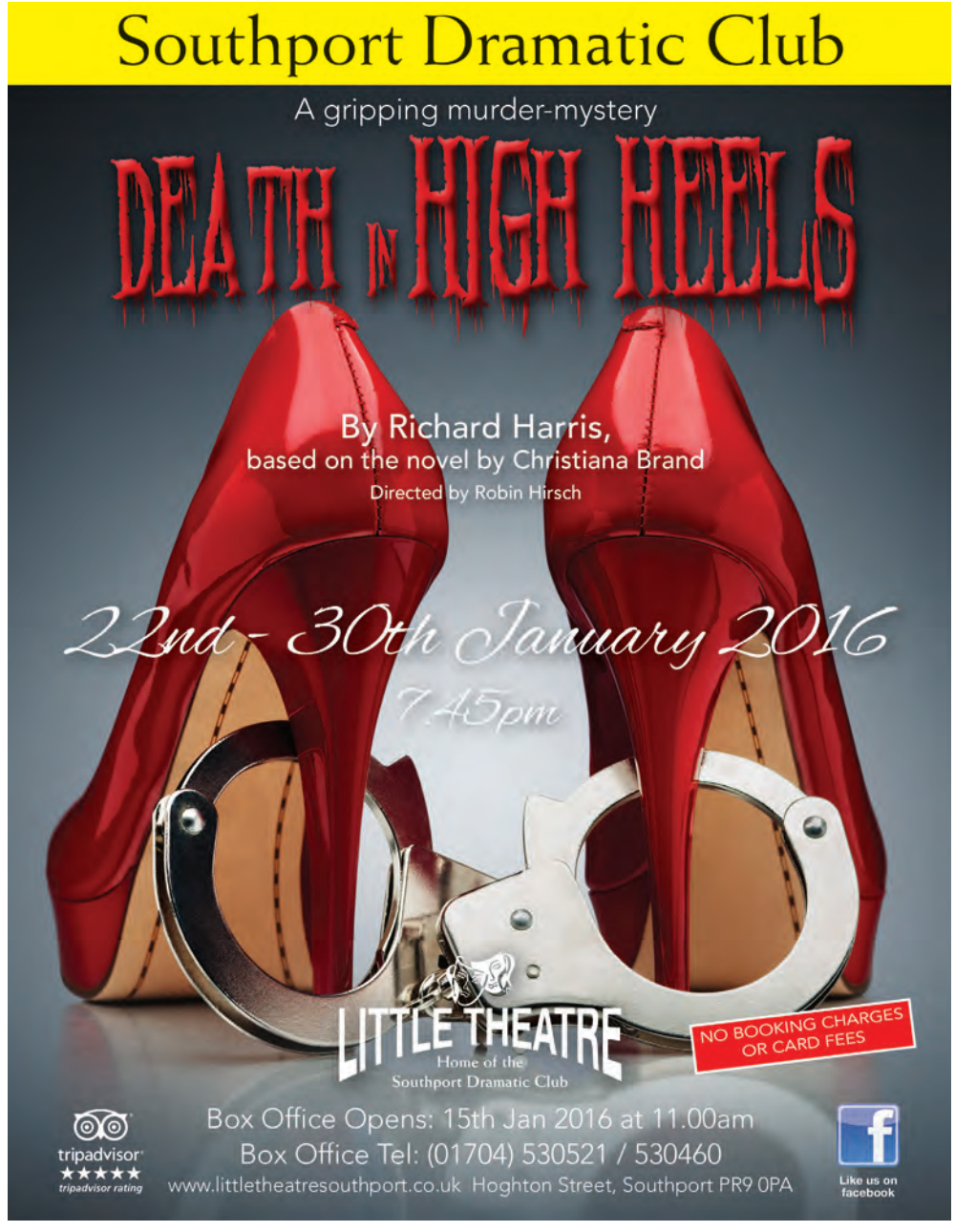
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MEN'S RACING BICYCLE Focus Cayo, 22 inch carbon frame and forks. Excellent condition. Top spec. RRP £1300. My price £550. Tel Mr Byrne 01695 570443

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BIANCHI CAMALEONTE sport touring bike, triple chains, disc brakes, mudguards, computer, mirror, virtually unused, new condition, cost £800, accept £395 01704220042 07757774207

LADIES MOUNTAIN bike, good condition £50 ono. Please phone (no text) 07534 540615

CLOTHING

MEN'S SUIT Black, chest 42r, trouser 40 x31long. £20 01695421041

EVENING SUIT Men's black, worn twice. Jacket 40-42, trouser 40, 29L. £20 01695421041

NAVY SUIT Men's Next slim fit. Jacket 38r, trouser 30L. Worn once, excellent as new condition. £25 01695574707

BLACK SUIT Red herring slim fit men's jacket 36r, trouser 30r. Worn once, excellent as new condition. £25 01695574707

CLOTHING

PROM SUIT ONESIX5IVE men's 3-piece grey suit, slim fit. Chest 32R. Trousers 26R. Bought for £100. Excellent condition. Worn once. £35 07802436329 01257462504

WEDDING DRESS Ronald Joyce gown size 10 new with labels. Never worn. Crystal, pearl bodice, tulle skirt. Cost £1000, accept £200 ono. 07754119148

LADIES SHOES Beautiful cream healed sandals by Faith size 4, bought but not worn, bargain £15 07929661948

AUSTIN REED gents beige lined mac, 42" chest, as new, was £200, bargain £50. No texts. 07866 626967

LADIES SHOES Classic healed red patent leather Anne Klein from Kurt Geiger shoes size 5, bought but not worn-bargain £15 07929661948

ALEXON DRESS Stunning raspberry pink lace topped small size 14, perfect for that special occasion-first to see will buy-£20 07929661948

LADIES BIKERS jacket, black, lots of zips, only worn once, size 10-12, leather look, £20 01704 573918

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SINCLAIR ZXSPECTRUM Original 1980's computer in original box and complete, like New, full working order, some games too £75 01704831977

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SAMSUNG SMARTPHONE S3mini GT-I8200 unlocked to any network, blue, immaculate as new condition, perfect working order, smart case, original box & charger. £100 01704831977

COMPUTER DESK silver metal on castors. Very good condition. Sliding keyboard shelf. Fixed top and lower shelves. May deliver. £12 01704560150

DIY

BLOCK & TACKLE £20.01704 222939.

GAS FIRE Small glass fronted insert gas fire coal effect with black marble shelf and white marble side panels £20 ono 01704 628190

TIMBER LADDERS 10 Metre High Approx, Extended Timber Ladders with Roof Ridge Hook Kit , Good Condition, Buyer to Collect, £45.00 07795 332604

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GARDEN SPADE in good condition £5 01695 728281

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VINYL both LPS and singles, some rare 70's and 80's. 2000 in all. Ring for details 07725984013

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1970'S Empty beer bottles £11 each. Collectors interest. Approx 75. Will sell separately £25. 07594604523

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HOME ENTERTAINMENT

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HI FI Full Hi Fi system, Sony Record deck, Yamaha Tuner Amp, Mordaunt Short speakers, with all leads, great sound 07855488391

RECORD PLAYER and double cassette player, 2 speakers, made by Matsui, vgc, can be heard working £40 01695 722142

37" SONY bravia LED freeview tv, excellent condition, flat screen £100 01695 578894

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WANTED Touring caravan.Can collect,decent condition,but no mad prices please.01704 222939.

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Matching Yew corner display cabinet. Glass top and cupboard below, with light. £75.
Oblong pie crust edge Yew nest of 3 tables. £35.
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LEATHER SUITE Monk style 3 seater settee, 2 chairs and matching foot stool. Ox blood red. Excellent condition. Buyer collects £350. 01704 232346

SOFA & ARMCHAIR Teal medium sofa & chair, very comfy, good condition. Collect Tarleton £30 07714574509

WOOL BLANKETS 5 single, 1 double £20 each or £100 all 6 01695421041

DOUBLE BEANBAG Black Faux Leather ideal for kids in front of TV £20 07809493028

SINGLE BED Grey Metal Frame with pull out extra frame to convert to a double when needed. 2 mattress included £30 07809493028

DINING ROOM Oval extending dining table plus 6 burgundy coloured chairs with matching sideboard very good condition.£95 01519332319

SET OF 5 drawer modern pine effect, nice piece of furniture for lounge or bedroom, £30. 0785 1192684

BED SIDE or can be used in lounge pine effect drawers (3), nice piece of furniture surplus to requirement, £20 0785 1192684

REGENCY REPRODUCTION It has a top shelf, then a drawer and 2 shelves, surplus to requirements, as new £15. 0785 1192684

COOLZONE FRIDGE/FREEZER 2 door black, excellent condition, like new, 21" deep, 19" wide, 33" high, £50 01704 831145

DYSON DC25 roller ball vacuum cleaner complete with attachments, vgc, £60 01704220042 07757774207

COFFEE TABLE Lovely beech wooden coffee table, hardly used. vgc. £50 01704224140/07856261561

2PIECE SUITE Lovely 2-seater cream sofas. Washable covers. vgc. £200 01704224140/07856261561

3PIECE SUITE Dark red comfy sofas, quite large with wooden bases. Removable, washable covers. vgc. £150 01704224140/07856261561

FIRE SURROUND Cream marble. Suitable for gas, electric or coal fires. Excellent condition. Cost £1000 new, will accept £100. 07710434770

TABLE & CHAIRS Dark Wood Traditional Extending Oval Dining Room Table with 4 Chairs and 2 Carvers, Buyer to Collect. £200.00 07795 332604

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WHITE BATH White b Shaped Bath left hand 1700x750mm including taps, side panel & curved glazed shower screen, Buyer to Collect £125.00 ono 07795 332604

DANISH DINING table and 4 chairs, beech finish, cream leather chairs, L140 x W90, extends to L185, ex con, cost £1600, £350 01704 877420

3 LIGHT ceiling fitting with frosted glass shades £8 01704 546953

WANTED oblong shower enclosure, not for original purpose, must be cheap 01704 228955

SOFA BED Double brown leather, rarely used, mattress spotless, £200 ono, buyer collects 01695 729765

2 WHITE wardrobes, one with mirrored front, immac condition, 183cm H 72cm W 51cm D, suit small room, £25 each, buyer collects 01695 729765

DISNEY TELEPHONE Winnie The Pooh, still in box with last number redial, ringer hi-low switch, £20 ono 07933 043429

GEORGE FOREMAN grill, 3 portion, as new £9. Swan 2 slice toaster, red £7 07760 142527

DUNELM CURTAINS cream/honey faux silk, 70"D 65W, 2 pairs, bedspread, double duvet cover, double pillow shams, cushion all to match, £80 01695 421558

SOLID WOOD table and chairs from 1930's - Offers to clear. Solid wood sideboard, up cycled in white £25. Mechanical juicer £10. 07761 479792

CANE SUITE Lovely 2 seat sofa and 2 chairs with matching coffee table, glass top, cream cushions, vgc, £75 0151 5200694

CHURCHILL FIGURE collectable £150. Coalport figure £50. Edwardian cabinet on legs, can deliver 01704 884564

VAX CARPET shampooer, Rapiede model, can see working, £25 07742 362843

CD/DVD STAND Tall black metal and beech wood. Nice design. Holds 60 CDs or DVDs. Freestanding or wall mounted. Excellent condition. £10 01704 553972

SUITCASE SET Black hard shell on wheels. By LYS of Paris. Fully lined. Excellent condition. Both expandable. One medium, one large. £35 01704 553972

DOOR HANDLES Two pairs of brass Georgian-style door handles includes spindles. Good used condition. £5.00 01704560627

HOUSE AND HOME

COMPLETE KITCHEN 12 oak door units, breakfast bar and 4 oak chairs, large display cabinet, fridge/freezer, freezer, hob, Neff double oven £1300 017048 77728

LARGE MIRROR 36" x 30" sectioned by dark wooden frame to give the appearance of nine windows. Great condition. 01704563831

ZANUSSI FRIDGE only 2 years old, excellent condition, 55cm wide, Southport, collection only. £75. 07443 548876

DYSON DC07 Upright bagless, perfect condition £45 079066 10215

FRIDGE HOTPOINT as new, under counter £49 ono 01695 422489

VICTORIAN ANTIQUE chest, 4 drawers, walnut, offers over £70. 01695 422489

FILING CABINET light oak, 2 drawers, as new £25. Aughton 01695 422489

ZANUSSI SLIMLINE dishwasher W 45cm D 60cm H 83cm, £50, good condition, hardly used 07900 156411

LARGE DOUBLE american white fridge freezer, vgc £100. 0151 5264165

MICROWAVE TOASTER kettle, breadbin, cup holder, kitchen roll holder, placemats, pan stand and more, all red. £75 the lot, vgc 0151 5264165

CHANDELIERS 2 beautiful tear drop single bulb chandeliers £20 each £35 both. Mirrors - various shapes styles, sizes, prices vary 0151 9227094

WARDROBE Self assembly, 2 sliding door, interior, 2 rails, 2 top shelves and three drawers, , light wood effect £45 07719 938369

BLACK GLASS tv table, ex con £25. Bright Starts baby rocking reclining chair, good con £10. 07881 752995

ORGAN and stool. Yamaha electric two tier £100. Focal point coal effect gas fire. Blenheim model brand new in box £70 0151 9335498

PANASONIC upright vacuum cleaner MC-UG304, ex con, complete with spare bags, edge to edge cleaning with tools £30. 01695 721519

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HOUSE AND HOME

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FRIDGE FREEZER Surplus to requirement. Good working order. £55 07851192684

TEAK WALL unit, vgc £20. Bedside cabinets £5 each. Interior 4 panelled door, new £12. Cream curtains 90x90, gc £10. 07934 496817

FURNITURE Reproduction Regency small piece of furniture, top shelf drawer with 2 shelves underneath, ex cond. £20 07851192684

SPACE HEATER 'Devil 850' with bottle, complete £48 0151 5272392

FRIDGE FREEZER Good working order, ample freezer space £55 07851192684

VACUUM CLEANER pneumatic Henry type with hose and brush. £40. 0151 5272392

ELECTRIC COOKER white £85, vgc. Also under worktop fridge, £60, vgc, will deliver. 07913 597562

VELVET HEADBOARD Red, v.g.c, double £25. Solid wood cot/bed Mothercare. W37" L47" £75 07594604523

VALOUR dream gold colour glass front, full depth gas fire, elegant, hardly used, as new, boxed. £140 ono. Cost £295. 0151 5236330

MAHOGANY VENEER Pair of bedside cabinets with 3 drawers. Very good condition £25 the pair 01704 222738

CONSERVATORY SUITE Cane, chair, glass top coffee table £49. Pair high back fireside chairs. One green velour one beige leaf print. Immaculate 01581 243716

WASH BASIN Rectangular 500x250 complete with 200mm x 1600mm work top. White. All new unused 01704 228021

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STOVE COOKER Dual fuel Newholm double oven, Hotplate grill, good clean condition 01704 211457

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MISC

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MISC

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MISC

VICTORIAN BRASS fire irons, fancy brass fire kerk, ash pan, tongs, shovel, hearth £150. 2 Victorian pan-mugs, brown/cream, £50. No texts 07866 626967

STAINLESS STEEL extendable shoe rack, good con, £7 07539 449430

GOLD CROSS Beautiful 2.5", tall 9ct gold cross and 18" gold chain, approx. 5 grams, would make lovely present £100 01704831977

IPHONE 3GS unlocked smartphone, black, 16GB, good condition and full working order, case, charger and cable £65 01704831977

CALOR GASBOTTLE Ideal for camping/caravan empty 7KG bottle but save yourself pounds on the deposit for a new bottle. £15.00 01704 875299

EGYPTIAN COSTUMES ideal for fancy dress 2 male with head dress, 2 female with 1 head dress £30 01695 728281

MISC

ELECTRIC GUITAR and case Keiper. No strap, no cable £35 o.n.o 07958 318341

DUVET SETS Two, double, black/grey, brand new unopened. Cost £20 each. Sell for £10 each 07539449430

METAL LATHE wanted for turning small parts, any condition 0151 5272392

COMPLETE SET Soldier Soldier dvds, 24 in total, vgc. £32 ono. 07854 559002

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FOUR WHEELED collator walking aid, large size, suit large person complete with seat and brakes, only used twice, ex con, £55 01704 573918

TRANSIT WHEELCHAIR as new, adult size, can deliver £60 07925 188189

3 WHEEL walking aid with bag and lockable hand brakes, can deliver £30 Southport 214498

UPHOLSTERED COMMODE £30. Toilet frame £15. Raised toilet seat £10. All in as new condition. 01704 574853

MOBILITY SCOOTER with removable rainhood, black in colour, ex con, solid and sturdy, visor and basket. £1800 ono. 01704 224135

WANTED Westminster Freerider mobility scooter 01257 450046

MOTHER AND BABY

TODDLERS BED excellent condition, used once at grandparents house, £70 07790 657596

BABY'S COT first size, up to 6 months, white wood with dark wood to head and foot with mattress, £20, may deliver 01704 573918

MAMAS PAPAS foot muff, beautiful condition, almost new, used twice, lovely and warm £15 0151 5266382

MOTORING

HALFORDS TOPBOX Car travel storage box, black, large 240ltr capacity £25 017048 77728

ALLOY WHEELS 15" 4 stud 5 spoke with tyres, vgc £75. 07504 888423

TRAILER 2 Wheels, 5'x3' hardly used £175 01704 892319

TOW BAR complete to fit Corsa 1.2, 53 year, £35. 0151 2879755

JERRY CAN Green, 20lit, petrol or diesel £10 07955434571

PETS

CAT FLAP smart microchip, unused, cost £99 - sell for £75 0151 9242871

FISH TANK 15 x 11, can deliver local, filter, heater £30 01704 884564

FREE GOLDFISH Free to a good home, five large long tailed aquarium Goldfish 01695 576854

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

FRENCH BOULES Set of 8 heavy metal boules in case with jack. All individually marked. Four sets of two. Good condition. £20 01704 553972

WILSON DISTANCE golf clubs left handed 3-4 irons new 5-6 irons used once £10 each 01515319425-07773242918

TENNIS RACKET Vintage 1950s. Spalding. Pancho Gonzales signature model. Excellent condition. Rare opportunity to own a genuine vintage tennis racket. £25. 01704 553972

SLEDGE Sturdy Wooden Tobogan 1 Person Sledge in red- £30 079729661948

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CROWN GREEN bowls, Greenmaster lite £60 01257 450046

SKI BOOTS Mens, Nordica make. Size 10. Used once plus bag, excellent condition £28 574902

EXERCISE BIKE with monitor £20. Buyer collects. 01704 879324

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DOLLS HOUSE Georgian 5 storey inc attic and basement, fully decorated, ex con £150 07912 749312

POOL /SNOOKER Folding pool/snooker table vgc £20 01695 420950

WANTED

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Temporary Nursery Manager

required from 4th April 2016,
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The position will be for one year or until the return of the post holder. Essential qualification NVQ3 or equivalent.

Please see website or call into school for further details and application form.

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Ormskirk School
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Data Manager
Ref: 156977

Required asap, for 37 hours a week, term time only plus two weeks. Grade 6, SCP 21-26, £19,742 to £22,937 pro-rata.
The Governors wish to appoint a Data Manager who will be responsible for the overall administration and management of pupil progress data and analysis of a range of data across the school. The post holder will maintain and further develop a sophisticated data system to facilitate the monitoring of pupils' attainment and progress, conducting analysis of internal and external data using Go4Schools and other software tools.

It is essential that the post holder has relevant qualifications to at least NVQ3 level, has past experience of analysing data, and a very high level of expertise in ICT applications, including Microsoft Excel. Knowledge of SIMS Assessment Manager, Go4Schools and Classcharts is desirable but not essential. This is an important role in a vibrant and busy secondary school which also demands excellent communication skills, ability to work independently and with lots of initiative.

Closing date: 1 February 2016 at noon

Catering Assistant (temporary)
Ref: 156893

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The Governors wish to appoint a catering assistant who will assist with the preparation, delivery and serving of food and drink during the lunch time service. This will include the preparation of ingredients, the laying of tables, the setting-up and clearance of service and dining areas, general cleaning and washing-up duties and the storage of deliveries. The postholder may also operate a till, cash register or similar and help to supervise the orderly movement of pupils around the dining area.
Required hours of work are: Monday; Wednesday to Friday, 12.05pm - 2.35pm; Tuesday, 11.25am - 1.55pm.
The post is temporary to cover a maternity leave.

Closing date: 25 January 2016 at noon

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WALKER JO (JOCELYN)

Ian, Andrew and Catherine would like to say thank you to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the thoughtful, kind and heartfelt expressions of sympathy extended to them after the recent sad loss of Jo. Thank you for the generosity of donations received for Guide Dogs for The Blind. Sincere gratitude to the Paramedics and Ambulance Service for all your help. Special thank you to Rev. Neil Stothers for his kind ministrations, support and words of comfort which have helped us so greatly. Finally thank you to Carl Howard and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for such a personal and caring funeral.

DEATHS

JOYNSON EDWIN

8th January 2016
Aged 67 years

Beloved husband of Pam, much loved dad to Karen, Mark and Debra, father-in-law to Stephen and Jenny, devoted grandad to Joseph, Hannah and Oscar. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 25th January at 2:40pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being received for Queenscourt Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 82 Station Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3HW. Telephone 01704 577786.

DEATHS

JONES MINNIE (Nee Carter)

10th January 2016
Aged 87 years

Peacefully at home, surrounded by her family. Beloved wife of the late Taffy, devoted mum to Graham, Brian, Stephen and Eric, mother-in-law to Margaret, Carole, Gillian and Mary, loving grandma and great-grandma to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, much loved sister. Minnie will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Emmanuel Parish Church on Friday 22nd January at 10.15am followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Emmanuel Church Roof Fund. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

PICKETT JUNE MARY

Passed away peacefully on 13th January 2016 aged 79 years.

Dearly loved Wife of Ernie, Mum to Steven, Mark and Martin, Mum-in-law to Alison and Jane. Much loved Nan to Karen, Laura, Claire and Becca, and Great Nan to Alicia, Sharna, Lexi and Kaci. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 25th January 2016 at 12:40PM. Family Flowers only if preferred, donations to Dementia UK. All enquires to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk. L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572997.

DEATHS

JACKSON MARGARET

12th January 2016
Peacefully at The Rest Home, Albert Road.
Aged 96 years.

Much loved cousin of Veronica and her family and a loving Aunty. Margaret will be sadly missed by all her family. Funeral service at St. Philip & St. Paul with Wesley Church on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 11.45am followed by Committal at Southport Crematorium at 12.40pm. Family flowers only by request but donations are being received for Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre. Further enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare 254 Liverpool Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4PD Tel 01704 550011.

IN MEMORIAM

SIMONS NEIL

2 years on the 25th January

We only have a picture now,
a frozen piece of time,
to remind us of how it was when you were here and ours.

We see your smiling eyes each morning when we wake,
We talk to you and place a kiss upon your lovely face,

How much we miss you being here,
We really cannot say
The ache is deep inside our hearts and never goes away.

Love and miss you,

Mum, Dad and all your loving family.
xxx

DEATHS

ROBINSON BARRIE

R.I.P
Passed away in hospital 8th January 2016
Aged 65

Loved very dearly and sadly missed by all his family. Dear Brother of Allen, Norman, John, Stanley (deceased) and Sister Jacqueline. Loving Dad of Nina and Mark and families. Loving Uncle to his Nephews & Nieces and families. Funeral service on Monday 25th January at St Helens Crematorium at 3.30pm. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services. 01695 731199.

DEATHS

HOOK FRED

R.I.P
10th January 2016
Aged 82 years.

Husband of the late Vera. Greatly remembered as the legendary licensee of the Guest House. Funeral Service at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Parish Church, Scarisbrick on Tuesday 26th January at 10.30am followed by private family interment in the churchyard. Flowers are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Make-A-Wish Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport PR8 5AW. Tel: 01704 500086

DEATHS

GRANGE CHARLES

12th January 2016
Aged 76 years.

Passed away peacefully. Beloved husband to Gill, devoted dad to Jonathan and Christopher. Charles will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 27th January at 2:40pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Freshfield Animal Rescue Centre. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 82 Station Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3HW. Telephone: 01704 577786.

DEATHS

BOULTON WILLIAM MICHAEL

January 14th 2016
Passed away peacefully at home with his family.

Beloved husband of Dorothy, devoted dad to Paul and Elaine. A dear father in law to Julie and Paul. Loving grandad to Lisa, Nicola, Claire, Louise and Emma. Great grandad to Mason and Hugo. He will be dearly missed by all his family and all that knew him. Funeral service to take place on Tuesday 26th January at 10.30am, St Annes R.C. Church, Ormskirk. Family flowers only by request. Donations gratefully received for The Alzheimers Society. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel 01695 572997

DEATHS

JONES GLENYS

On 12th January 2016
Peacefully in hospital.
Aged 72 years

Loving mum of Ian, Steven and Jeannette, dear mother in law of Mary, cherished nan and great nan of all her grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Thursday 21st January at 3.30pm. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868.

IN MEMORIAM

PORTER ALAN

19th January 2010

If tears could build a stairway and memories were a lane, we would walk right up to heaven and bring you back again. No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye, you were gone before we knew it and only God knows why. Our hearts still ache in sadness and secret tears still flow, what it meant to lose you no one will ever know. But now we know you want us, to mourn for you no more, to remember all the happy times, life still has so much in store. Since you will never be forgotten, we pledge to you today, a hallowed place within our hearts, is where you will always stay. We miss your wicked sense of humour and the laughs we had together. Forever in our hearts.
Mum, Dad, Liam & Alfie xxxx

DEATHS

WOODS DON

January 11th 2016
Aged 60 years

Dear son of June and the late Ron, special brother to May and Jane, brother-in-law of Ian, much loved dad of Anton and Adi, a very good friend to Pauline and Andrea. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 25th January at 12 noon. Donations in lieu of flowers are being gratefully received for Queenscourt at Home. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone 01704 500086.

DEATHS

WYNNE EDGAR (EDDIE)

10th January 2016
Aged 95 years.

Peacefully in Southport Hospital. Beloved husband to the late Marjorie, devoted father to Peter, a loving brother, uncle and godfather. Eddie will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 27th January at 11:20am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 82 Station Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3HW. Telephone: 01704 577786

DEATHS

MORLEY JOHN GODFREY

12th January 2016
Aged 91 years

Devoted husband of the late Kay. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 26th January at 1:20pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for British Heart Foundation and The Salvation Army. All donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

STEELE ELIZABETH

13th January 2016
Passed away
Aged 64 years

Loving Mother of Dale and Terry. She will be sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 28th January at 12.40pm. Family flowers only. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel: 01695 592997

DEATHS

McCARTHY PHILOMENA

10th January 2016
Peacefully at home after a long illness bravely borne

A dear sister of Mary and aunt to all her nieces and nephews. Funeral Mass at St. Anne's Church, Freshfield on Thursday 21st January at 12.00 noon followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. No flowers by request but donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice c/o and all enquiries to Coyne Bros, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby L37 3PE. Tel 01704 873899.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/1311/FUL Variation of Condition No. 2 imposed on planning permission 2014/1257/FUL to vary the approved plans at Land At Aughton Chase, Springfield Road, Aughton.

Application No: 2016/0002/FUL Removal of Condition No. 10 imposed on planning permission 2015/0098/FUL relating to required works to form new footways at the site access at Land Adjacent To Southport New Road, Leisure Lakes, The Gravel, Mere Brow, Tarleton.

Application No: 2016/0040/FUL Variation of Condition No.7 imposed on planning permission 2011/0787/FUL to read: 'The development shall take place in accordance with the Coal Mining Risk Assessment Addendum Report produced by WSP dated November 2015' at Beacon Park Golf Centre, Beacon Lane, Dalton.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0005/FUL Single storey rear extension at 48 Chapel Street, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2016/0006/LBC Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension at 48 Chapel Street, Ormskirk.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI
Assistant Director Planning

Dated: 20th January 2016
PDNOT881

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Mercedes E-Class to hit the UK showrooms this year

CAR manufacturer Mercedes is launching its latest E-Class on Britain's shores later this spring.

Prices are expected to start at around £35,000.

It will be available with the company's new 2.0-litre turbodiesel – badged as the E220D – while petrol versions include the E350E. This uses a 2.0-litre petrol engine in conjunction with an electric motor.

Despite having a sleeker profile than its predecessor, the new E-Class is roomier.

This is thanks largely to being a little longer than the outgoing model.

Visit the company's website at www.mercedes-benz.co.uk to find out more information or to place an order.

Stone me down! Bentley's brand new dashboard revolution

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.blogspot.com

Bentley is giving wealthier motorists the option of stone dashboards

NORMALLY it'd take a couple of days for some robots to bolt your next new car together – but they do things differently at Bentley.

Order the latest version of the Continental GT or Mulsanne and it turns out the production process actually started about 200 million years ago, in a part of the world that's now at the bottom of an Indian quarry. That's how long it's taken for a type of stone to become just about good enough for the luxury car boffins to use as it as a new kind of dashboard veneer.

Yes, you read that correctly. As part of a new service being offered by Mulliner – Bentley's in-house coachbuilding service – your nearest Premiership footballer can have their new car offered up with what's effectively a stone dashboard. About time!

I genuinely find it hard to believe that in the era of Grand Designs and iPads that the vast majority of cars come with a choice of two interior finishes – grey plastic, or black plastic. Materials matter, which is why I'm surprised it's taken the car world so long to realise that stone is a wonderful material to work with (and light too, given Bentley's is just a tenth of a millimetre thick).

I'd love the idea of a car's dashboard being trimmed with a dark, brooding slab of stone straight out of the Honister Slate Mine. Having been tempted by the gift shop right outside its front door I've seen firsthand how it's possible to make everything from chopping boards to garden tables out of the stuff. Surely a bit on a car's dashboard to replace the horrid wood-effect plastic on some of today's hatchbacks can't be too far a stretch? Marble would look magnificent too, if the front of most high street banks are anything to go by.

Nor should imaginative interiors stop at stone either. You only have to look at the body coloured flourish streaking across a Fiat Coupe's dashboard to know the effect exposed metal can have in the right colour. It looks wonderful but very few manufacturers (take a bow, Volkswagen) actually do it.

For now I'll have to stick to wood-trimmed classic cars to get an exciting interior, but if I go get a sudden windfall I know where I'll be going. Back to the stone age, courtesy of Bentley!

David Simister is features editor of Classic Car Weekly

New version of Mini Cooper to go on sale

A HOTTED-UP version of the MINI Convertible – with 231bhp going to the front wheels – is going on sale this April.

The John Cooper Works model has the same 2-litre turbo engine and sports seats you can currently get in the MINI hatchback.

Prices start at £26,630 for the manual version.

The prices start at £28,305 if you would like it with automatic transmission.

Visit the company's website at www.mini.co.uk to find out more about the full range.

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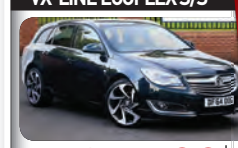

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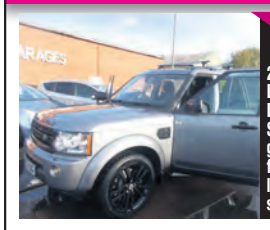

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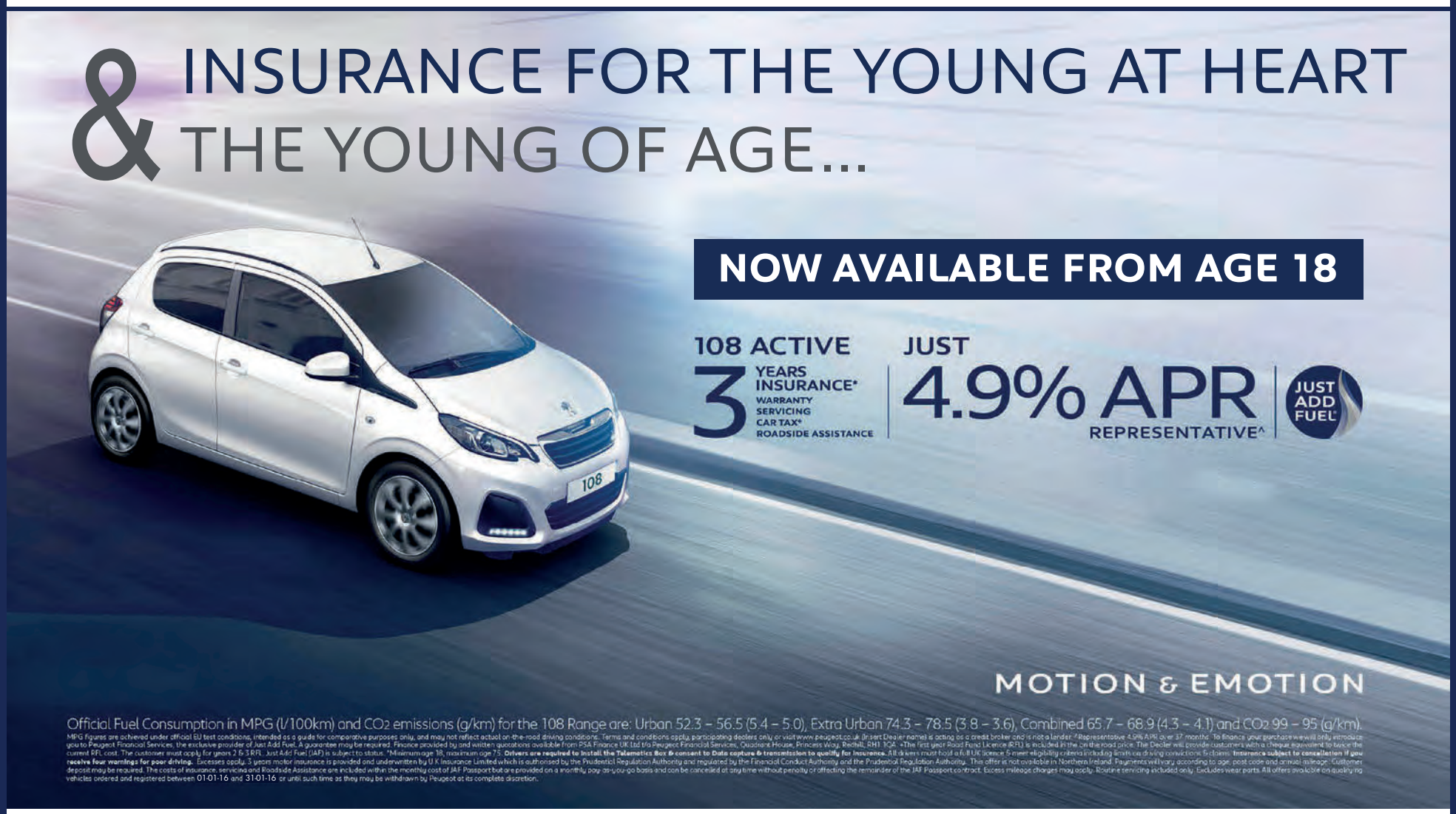
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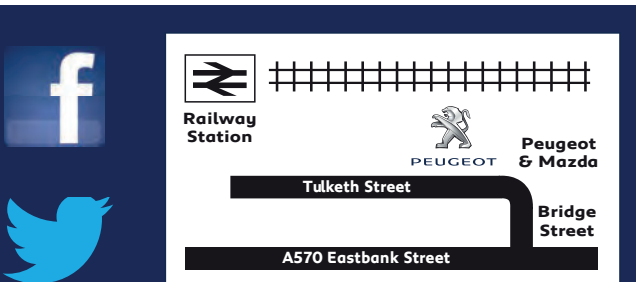

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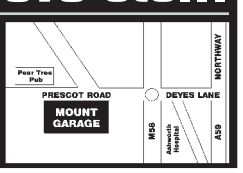

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Fylde prove too strong

AFTER the heroics from before Christmas when against the odds Skelmersdale came back from three goals down in the FA Trophy at AFC Fylde, the replay was just a step too far for Tommy Lawson's lads.

A goal early in each half made it a difficult task for Skem but for a while they threatened to manage until injuries caught up with them in the latter stages at Salford's AJ Bell Stadium.

Fylde took the lead in the sixth minute via a well worked set piece corner from the left.

Skelmersdale in action

Dion Charles drove the ball into the near-post area from where Danny Rowe was able to flick the ball home.

Skelmersdale spent much of the remainder of the first-half pressing Fylde, but only a miraculous goal-line clearance from Valtar Fernandes kept it at 1-0.

The killer blow came from Rowe on 53 minutes. A Skem corner resulted in a break down by Fylde, the ball was slipped behind the Skem backline and Rowe finished well from 12 yards.

For Skem Kusaloka looked the most likely lad and only a good save by Urwin kept him out on 62 minutes.

Injuries to Ince and Kusaloka took their toll late on, Rowe completed his hat-trick in the last ten minutes and substitute Matty Blinkhorn made it four right on full-time.

Wembley glory days to be remembered

THE year 1967 is probably etched into the folklore of the town of Skelmersdale.

The year they went to Wembley, a feat they were to repeat four years later.

But the team that first did it is the one that is revered by the people of the town, mainly because it was full of local lads who had developed through the ranks.

The lads of 1967 gradually worked their way through the famous north-east and then Home Counties based non-league giants who every year set the FA Amateur Cup at the pinnacle of their aims.

Skelmersdale's White Moss Park ground hosted 7,500 spectators for the quarter-final against Slough, then after victory over Hendon in a second replay at West Bromwich Albion they booked their passage to Wembley, where they met Enfield.

It seemed like the whole town went and many from surrounding towns too. 75,000 were at Wembley on April 22 1967, they witnessed a 0-0 draw in which Skelmersdale missed a penalty right at the end of extra-time.

The replay at Maine Road Manchester the following Saturday was watched by another huge attendance, Enfield prevailed, but the experience was never to be forgotten.

Skelmersdale in action at Wembley

Skelmersdale did have a secret weapon that year in the shape of a coach that worked with the players at midweek training sessions, none other than Liverpool legend Ian St John.

That is a story that will be revealed nearer the day.

Wembley is a day that is to be remembered by both clubs and a re-run was arranged by Skelmersdale United club historian Kevin Panther and now it is a reality. Enfield will visit Skelmersdale on Saturday, July 30 2016, with a return scheduled for the pre-season of 2017 at Enfield.

It will give the players of both teams will have the opportunity to meet again for the first time in 50 years.

Naturally the teams will be the teams of 2016 that will act out the match but Skelmersdale United are offering the chance for others to get involved.

Sponsorship for the game will be snapped up quickly and it is arguably the highest profile game at Skelmersdale for many years.

Any individuals and local businesses that want to get involved will need to act soon to register their interest.

They can do so by contacting Norman Fenney or Kath Fenney on 07949 582262.

Skelmersdale United face three away games in eight days in the Evo-Stik Premier Division, last night they will have gone international as they travelled to Colwyn Bay, on Saturday they take on one of this season's renowned cup fighters in the shape of Stourbridge in the Black Country, before a trip across Lancashire next Tuesday to Ramsbottom United.

Skem's next home game is against Rushall Olympic on Saturday, January 30.

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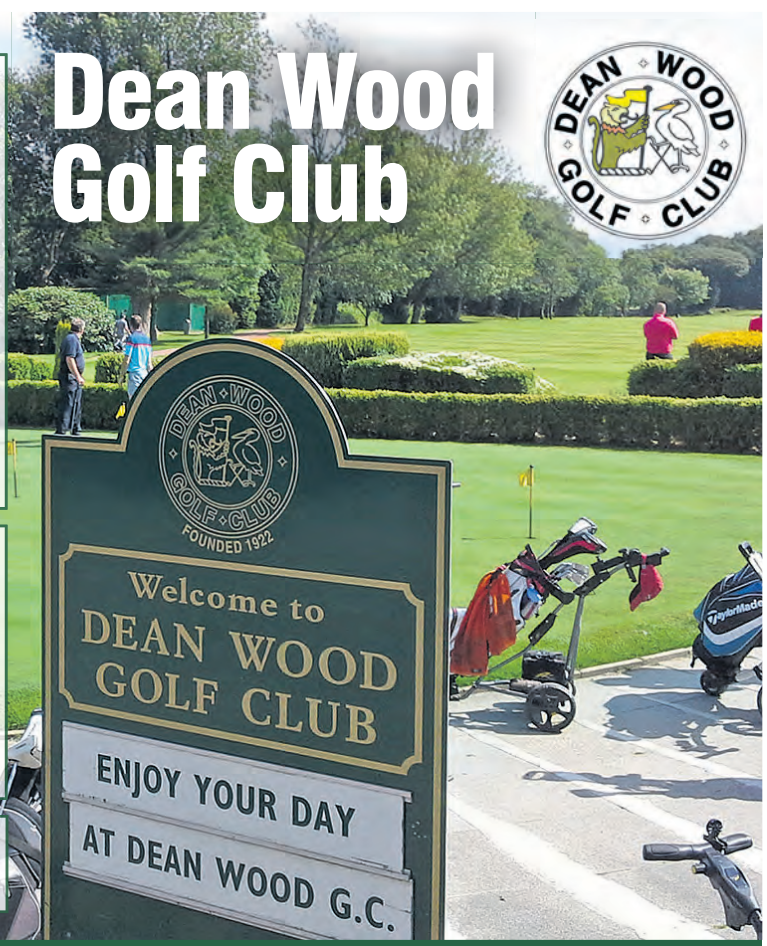

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Linnets set to return to action against Brighouse

BURSCOUGH will host Brighouse Town this Saturday in a league tie.

The game is set to kick off at 3pm and offers the Linnets a chance to pick up their first win since December.

They were set to play Lancaster City last night (Tuesday) in the league.

If you have any sports news you would like us to cover contact the Champion on 01704 392403 or email editorial@champnews.com.

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